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Times2

Sunak: Rules to curb AI threats will keep pace with technology

Henry Zeffman
Associate Political Editor, Hiroshima
Mark Sellman, Alex Farber

New rules to tackle the threats of artificial intelligence (AI) may be introduced amid growing concern in government that Britain's existing regulation is too lax.

Rishi Sunak said yesterday that the government's approach would "evolve" to keep pace with the fast-moving technology. The change in tone follows recent warnings from experts that AI could be used to spread disinformation and cause large-scale job losses.

An AI white paper released in March indicated a regime that would foster innovation and avoid "heavy handed legislation" but since then the clamour for regulation has grown. The White House recently convened a summit of tech leaders to address the issue and said that it was open to bringing forward laws to ensure AI could safely benefit everyone. Downing Street is planning a similar meeting with the heads of OpenAI, Google DeepMind and Anthropic, Bloomberg reported.

Europe is preparing more centralised laws and has updated its proposals to incorporate new AI like ChatGPT.

BT said yesterday that it would cut 10,000 jobs by 2030 through new technology such as AI.

Sunak told reporters at the G7 summit in Japan: "I think if it's used safely, if it's used securely, obviously there are benefits from artificial intelligence for growing our economy, for transforming our society, improving public services. But that has to be done safely and securely and with guardrails in place, and that has been our regulatory approach." He added: "The technology is evolving quickly and we want to make sure that our regulation can evolve as it does as well."

Government sources said the pace at

Continued on page 4

UK reliance on foreign nurses at critical level

Two thirds of recruits since 2019 from overseas

Kat Lay Health Editor

Britain's reliance on foreign nurses has reached "unsustainable" levels, the government has been warned as a new analysis shows that international recruits accounted for two thirds of the rise in numbers since 2019.

Ministers have repeatedly promised to boost the domestic supply of health staff amid warnings that reliance on international workers leaves the NHS at the mercy of global labour markets.

In 2019 the government promised to recruit 50,000 extra nurses for England by the end of March 2024. Although they are expected to reach that goal, analysis by the Nuffield Trust underlines the extent to which it has used international recruitment to do so.

A fifth of the UK's nursing, midwifery and nursing associate workforce originally trained overseas. However, the number of international recruits has risen sharply. In the year to last September, 50 per cent of newcomers to the nursing and midwifery register trained overseas, up from 19 per cent four years earlier. In the three years since September 2019, there has been an increase of 22,226 UK-trained workers. However, this is only half the rise seen for non-UK trained staff, up by 43,736 despite falls in the number from the EU.

The figures will reignite concerns that nations such as the Philippines, traditionally a key source for the NHS, are being increasingly targeted by countries including Germany and Canada. Senior NHS leaders fear that the health service could be left in a precarious position if increased competition results in nurses choosing alternative destinations, resulting in a shortfall for the UK. The health service in England already has one post in ten vacant.

Miriam Deakin, director of policy and strategy at NHS Providers, said: "Chronic staff shortages have meant that the health service has become increasingly over-reliant on nurses and health workers from across the world to deliver care to patients. The contribution these staff make is invaluable but an over-reliance on international recruitment is not sustainable. We need to significantly invest in expanding the number of staff trained within the UK alongside ongoing recruitment of colleagues from abroad."

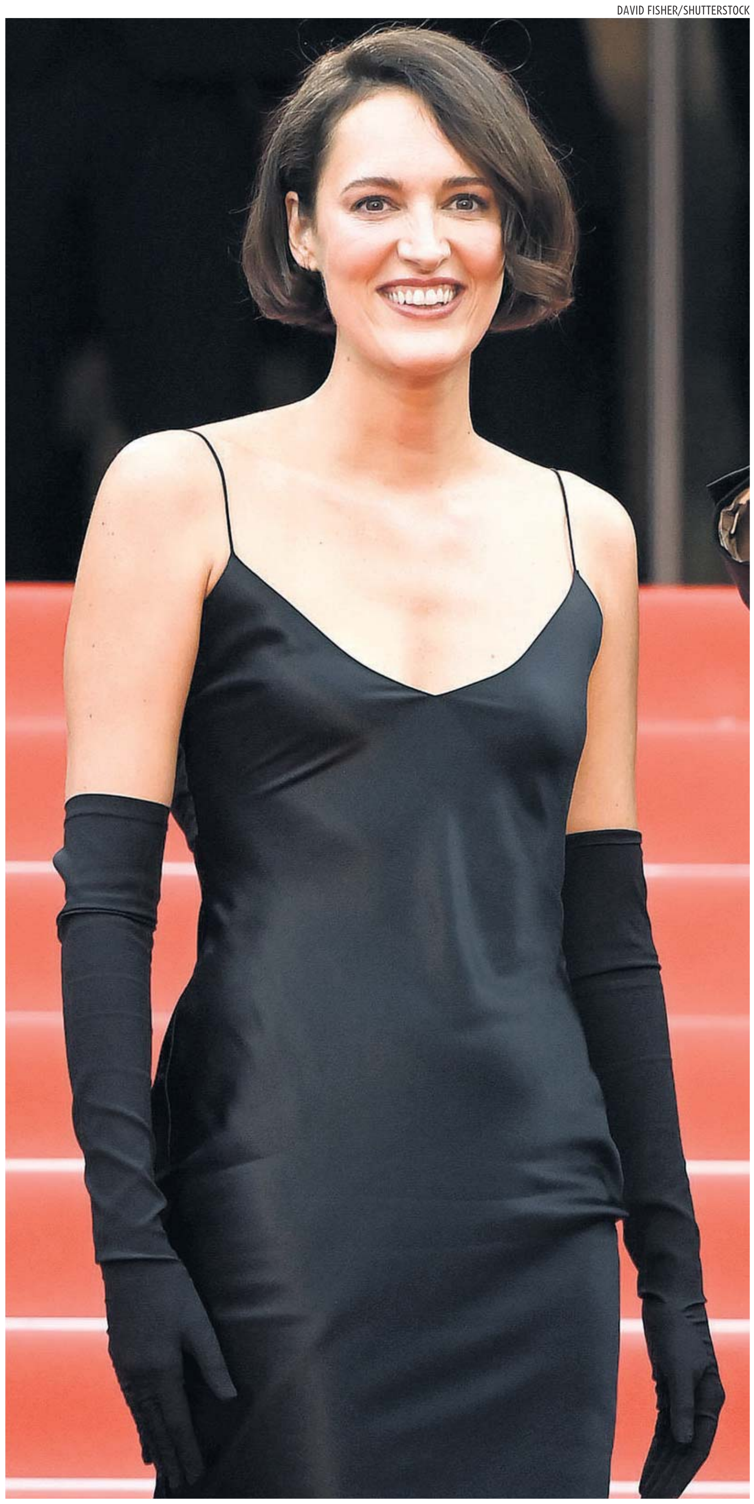
Billy Palmer, a senior fellow at the Nuffield Trust, said: "Our health services rely on overseas nurses, who on average stay longer with the NHS than their counterparts trained in the UK. But we know international recruitment can't be the answer to ensuring we have the staff we need to keep services going. Even now, the NHS is competing with other health systems for overseas staff — and in some cases our working conditions, pay and career prospects are looking unfavourable."

A government source said that ministers had always intended to use international recruitment as part of their strategy and would set out further plans on domestic supply shortly.

Deakin said it was vital that the government published a fully funded,

Continued on page 4

DAVID FISHER/SHUTTERSTOCK



New adventure Phoebe Waller-Bridge, 37, in Cannes for the premiere of Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny, the fifth film in the series. She co-stars alongside Harrison Ford, 80, as the daredevil archaeologist's goddaughter. Review, page 13

Fifth of all families now couples who aren't married

James Beal Social Affairs Editor

Unmarried cohabiting couples are the fastest growing kind of family in Britain, official figures show.

They now represent 19 per cent, or 3.6 million, of all families — up 700,000 from 2012.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said this accounted for almost three quarters of the growth in families over the ten-year period.

Experts pointed to falling marriage rates and financial pressures as much as the lack of social stigma attached to unmarried relationships.

James Brown, the managing partner at Hall Brown Family Law, said: "Many individuals do still believe in the idea of a lavish wedding. However, when a couple is trying to save in order to get on the housing ladder or simply get by, ceremonies — and the costs associated with starting a family — are of less immediate importance."

Harry Benson, director of research at the Marriage Foundation, blamed government messaging as well as perceived wedding costs. "People are saying, 'We'd rather spend our money on rent or a deposit than a huge party for which we can't see the point.' Government has failed dismally to sell the message that marriage is really important," he said.

ONS figures showed an increase of one million families: 19.4 million last year compared with 18.4 million in 2012. Forty-three per cent of families had no children. Families with one or more dependent children made up 42 per cent, while families with non-dependent children, or those over 18, accounted for 15 per cent of the total. Of the families with under-age children, those with one child made up 44 per cent and those with two 41 per cent.

More men living alone, page 22

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Nationwide House, Pipers Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN38 1NW.

Today's highlights



7.35am **Will Shu**, boss and co-founder of Deliveroo
10.20am **Kate Forbes**, the former SNP leadership candidate
2pm **Ruth Davidson** chats to the photographer **Rankin**, right, about his life's work and new book
9pm **Frank Luntz**, the US pollster and Republican messaging guru
9.40pm **Kerry Ellis**, leading lady of many a West End musical

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TODAY'S EDITION

Health nudge on takeaways

People pick healthier takeaways when delivery apps provide calorie information and list salads above junk food. An Oxford University study found that "small tweaks" to menu displays resulted in people ordering 200 fewer calories per meal. **Page 6**

Students given Lego therapy

Cambridge University is offering students games of hide and seek, Lego-building and DIY nail bars in its college and department libraries to help alleviate the stress of exams. Other "wellbeing support" activities include yoga and origami. **Page 7**

House price boom 'is over'

The era of massive house price increases is coming to an end because of the growth in working from home, rising interest rates and slower population increases, a senior economist at the government's spending watchdog has said. **Page 10**

51 days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia #IStandWithEvan



South Africa set to host Putin

South Africa is preparing to welcome President Putin despite an international arrest warrant against him. A committee led by President Ramaphosa's deputy is poring over international laws after Russia vetoed a request for Putin to attend via Zoom. **Page 30**

Erdogan rival's tough stance

Turkey's opposition leader has pledged to send back all refugees and confront terrorism as he prepares to face President Erdogan again at the ballot box. Kemal Kilicdaroglu, 74, appears to be adopting a tougher stance to attract nationalist votes. **Page 33**

Britain behind in chip funding

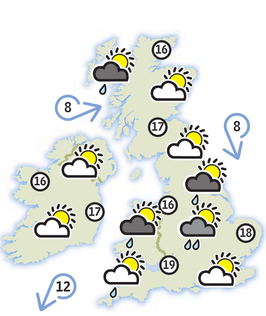
The government is investing up to £1 billion in the microchip industry over the next decade as part of its long delayed semiconductor strategy, a fraction of the tens of billions being invested by the United States and EU. **Page 35**

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THE WEATHER



Sunny spells and variable cloud with a few isolated heavy showers.
Full forecast, page 59

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Sunak shunts Johnson's great rail shake-up into the sidings

Ben Clatworthy

Ministers have scrapped plans for the biggest shake-up of the railways since privatisation, The Times has learnt.

Plans for the creation of Great British Railways (GBR), put forward by Boris Johnson as a way to fix the rail network, have been watered down by No 10.

Officials at the Department for Transport (DfT) have been told it is not a priority for the government and will not be in the King's Speech. "Those working on it have been told it's now unlikely to get a legislative slot," a source said.

It is understood there is a battle between the DfT and Downing Street about its creation. Transport ministers are pushing for it to be given parliamentary time but there is resistance from Rishi Sunak.

A source said: "Sunak doesn't see the railways as a priority."

The creation of GBR was announced in May 2021 by Johnson and Grant Shapps, who was then the transport secretary, and described as the biggest change in the railways since the mid-1990s. GBR, they said, would be introduced to run the tracks and trains, including setting timetables and collecting fares through a simplified system.

Its creation was included in the Transport Bill announced in the Queen's Speech last spring but was scrapped in October by Anne-Marie Trevelyan, transport secretary at the time. Insiders believe a shadow GBR will be created — albeit without overall control of the railways, watering down Johnson's plans for modernisation.

Last month ministers suggested that if a bill on future transport were included in the King's Speech, which has been delayed until the autumn, it would be slimmed down to focus on self-driving vehicles. Speaking at the launch of an all-party parliamentary group on self-driving vehicles, Richard Holden, a transport minister, said: "This is the one thing which the department is putting ahead of anything else at the moment. If we do get a slot, it will be in this space because we know how critical this area is for UK industry."

Officials are said to be looking at a handful of rail reforms that could be achieved without a bill. "There is still a decent amount of work that can be done without legislation," a source said. "It will be more limited but GBR can effectively become a shadow organisation responsible for pushing through reforms [that don't need legislation]."

Rail bosses said that the work of the Great British Railways Transition Team, created to work on behalf of the government to set up the organisation, would continue "until told otherwise".

A government spokesman said that ministers were committed to GBR and that no decisions had been made about the legislative timetable. He said: "Our programme of reform will unlock passenger benefits which we are already delivering, including workforce reform, a rollout of contactless payment and fares reform. No decisions have been made on legislation in the fourth session of this parliament."

● Railway workers at 14 train companies will strike again in a dispute over pay, jobs and conditions. Members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union (RMT) will walk out on June 2.

Behind the story

The aged rail network is crying out for reform. Great British Railways was billed as the saviour of the iron road, bringing track and train back under one umbrella.

But it would not simply be British Rail Mk2. The broken franchise system would be replaced and the dreaded faff of ticketing replaced. Astonishingly, there are about a million ticket combinations available.

Yet government paralysis has set in, aided by a prime minister who views the railways as an expensive waste of money. Having occupied No 11 during the pandemic, all Rishi Sunak saw was a blank cheque – amounting to more than £1,000 a household – to keep services running.

The transport bill that paved the way for GBR's creation has been dropped. Without it GBR's power will be significantly weaker and control will remain largely with the Department for Transport and the Treasury.

CPS cherry-picks easiest cases, says Met boss

Kieran Gair

Britain's most senior police officer has accused the Crown Prosecution Service of trying to boost conviction rates by "cherry-picking easy cases" to prosecute in court.

Sir Mark Rowley, the Met commissioner, said that he believed the CPS, which authorises charges in England and Wales, was "not taking on the harder cases" but choosing ones that were more likely to result in a conviction.

Rowley, 58, claimed that prosecutors were also adding to the risk that domestic abuse victims would give up on taking legal action because of slower working practices that developed during the Covid-19 pandemic. This meant suspects were not charged quickly enough.

He told the Evening Standard: "When you look at the fact that the cases the CPS prosecute, 80 per cent of them are successful, guilty pleas or convictions, that suggests we're not taking on the harder cases. We need a system that's prepared to take more difficult cases and let juries and magistrates decide rather than lawyers in advance."

The CPS and police should be jointly held to account for bringing as many people to justice as possible, he said.

The commissioner also addressed Baroness Casey's excoriating review of the Metropolitan Police, which found that the force was institutionally sexist, racist and homophobic.

Rowley conceded that frontline officers had to perform better and his force was working to "improve our support to victims and the evidence files we submit". He said that prosecutions for rape and other serious sexual offending were increasing.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
NHS recruitment warning

long-term workforce plan without delay.

Dr Layla McCay, policy director of the NHS Confederation, said: "There are no simple, short-term fixes to address the shortage of nurses … We need to see more funding and support for domestic training and professional development for staff to ensure we have a sustainable nursing workforce."

The UK faced criticism at a recent World Health Organisation conference for its recruitment from countries with their own nursing shortages. While active recruitment from "red list" countries breaches WHO rules, these can be circumvented, for example by government-to-government agreements.

Howard Catton, head of the International Council of Nurses, said: "The global nursing shortage means that international recruitment has become increasingly competitive and therefore more expensive and less reliable as a quick-fix solution. More significant is the heightened risk of harm to health in those countries losing nurses as they already have fewer nurses per head of population and weaker health systems."

The Department of Health and Social Care said: "The supply of homegrown NHS staff is increasing, with record numbers of doctors and nurses, and international recruitment is only one part of growing the workforce. We're on track to deliver 50,000 more nurses by next year, with almost 43,000 more working in the NHS compared to September 2019. We will shortly publish a long-term workforce plan."

International nurses

Internationally trained nurses made up almost half of all new joiners on the Nursing and Midwifery Council's register

India	9,769
Philippines	5,763
Nigeria	2,998
Zimbabwe	913
Ghana	831
Kenya	461
Nepal	210
Romania	156
Australia	145
Rep. Ireland	127

Data from 1 Apr 2021 to 31 Mar 2022
Source: Nursing and Midwifery Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Sunak considers new AI rules

which AI was progressing had caused concern in Whitehall that the UK's approach may have been too relaxed.

Last week Chloe Smith, the science, innovation and technology secretary, met Geoffrey Hinton, the "godfather of AI" who recently quit Google to warn of the technology's dangers.

Professor Stuart Russell, another leading figure in AI research, criticised Britain's approach last week. He told The Times it was "nothing to see here. Carry on as you were before."

Matt Brittin of Google warned about the dangers of over-regulation, saying that technologies were neutral. "A fork is technology — I can use it to eat spaghetti or I can stab you in the hand. We do not regulate forks but there are consequences if you go and stab someone."

Sunak said he wanted co-ordination with allies. Yoshua Bengio, considered another "godfather" of AI, has proposed an international coalition to fund AI research, similar to co-operation on Cern in Europe or space programmes.

Sting predicts battle ahead, page 8
BT cuts jobs over AI, page 35

LINDSAY SANDFORD

We brought a graveyard back to life



A couple clearing plots on the Isles of Scilly have unearthed tales of shipwrecks and pirates, writes **Will Humphries**





The overgrown and untended graveyard on St Mary's first revealed its secrets to Brian and Lindsay Sandford in lockdown

When Lindsay and Brian Sandford began clearing an overgrown churchyard on the Isles of Scilly they were looking for a sense of purpose during the months of lockdown.

What they discovered among the hundreds of unrecorded graves that lay beneath the brambles were tales of pirate murder, doomed opera singers and sugar plantations.

Mrs Sandford, 60, a retired museum researcher, and her husband, 73, a retired building contractor, started to clear St Mary's Old Town churchyard in 2021 after struggling to find a grave they were searching for.

A large section of the churchyard had been closed since the late 1940s, and all but the Commonwealth war graves had become overgrown. Harold Wilson, the former prime minister, is buried in another part of the maintained churchyard, overlooking the sheltered blue waters of Old Town Bay.

After receiving permission from the diocese to start clearing the plots, they began uncovering hundreds of dilapidated and previously undocumented headstones and plaques. "One of my favourites has to be the captain killed by pirates," Mrs Sandford said.

Captain Peter Lambton was buried at Old Town on January 20, 1781, but his headstone had fallen over when she found it. Further research revealed he had been captured and ransomed for 500 guineas by French pirates, who later killed him.

Another notable find was the grave of Ann Cargill, a celebrated opera singer who died with her infant child on February 24, 1784, in a shipwreck off Scilly while returning from India on the packet ship Nancy. She was buried on the uninhabited island of Rosevear but she was exhumed and reburied at Old Town churchyard.

The youngest discovery has been Georgiana Fry, an ancestor of the Fry chocolate family, who died aged three months on board the ship Calypso on October 1, 1847, while travelling to England from Jamaica.

Her father, Charles Edward Fry, was a lawyer and overseer of the Orange Valley Plantation, the second largest sugar plantation in Jamaica. Her grave was not previously recorded and the inscription on her plaque only becomes visible in the early morning sunshine.

Cornwall archaeological service had surveyed the churchyard in the early 2000s but if a headstone could not be seen among the vegetation, or an inscription was too badly weathered, they went unrecorded.

Mrs Sandford, who has written three books detailing the previously largely unknown lives of people buried there, said the process has been "really satisfying" and gave her husband a new lease of life. "Brian has severe Alzheimer's so for us it has given us purpose," she said.

With the help of volunteers they have spent up to 60 hours a week repairing dry stone walls, restoring and cleaning fallen headstones and clearing areas of dense undergrowth.

They started going to the church six mornings a week, and were joined by her grandson Herbie, before other volunteers became involved. Two teenagers have used the project as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

It is not known how many people are buried, but there are about 850 headstones and plaques. Some of the graves have more than one body, and there are three known mass graves for some of the 335 people who died when the SS Schiller sank off Scilly in 1835.

Time stands still twice in a week after Big Ben fails to chime

Ali Mitib

Time ground to a halt twice in a week in Westminster after the hands on all four faces of the Great Clock on the Elizabeth Tower froze within months of an £80 million refurbishment.

The clock stopped for about half an hour on Wednesday morning and its bells also fell silent.

A week earlier the clock temporarily showed the wrong time and Big Ben, the Great Bell of the Great Clock, did not chime at 1pm.

The stoppages were part of a "bedding in" process after the refurbishment of the Elizabeth Tower, which took five years and was paid for the taxpayer. The bells fell silent because they were disconnected to allow for a mechanism to be serviced.

After investigation the mechanism was oiled and weights were increased to the original settings on the going train, the part of the clock's mechanism that pushes the hands, to provide additional power.

A House of Commons source insisted that the issue did not represent a risk to the clock mechanism or a defect. Big Ben, which at 13.7 tonnes is the largest and heaviest of five bells in the tower, was silenced in 2017 as part of a four-year refurbishment project.

The decision was made to protect the ears of workers but was criticised by Theresa May, who was prime minister.

The renovation was completed in 2022 and the costs rose to £80 million.

The House of Commons administration committee, which approved the renovations in 2015, will examine the issue after one of its members pledged to raise the matter with the group.

The MP, who has not been named, told the Daily Telegraph: "We'll bring it up at the administration committee. We can't have things going wrong with the bongs."

Craig Mackinlay, the Tory MP for South Thanet, also said he would raise the stoppages with the Commons finance committee.

A Commons spokesman said: "Teams worked quickly to rectify the immediate issue and carried out enhanced servicing to the mechanism shortly after, which has now [been] completed.

"The clock dials and bells of the Elizabeth Tower are functioning as normal and no risks to the integrity of the mechanism have been identified." The spokesman added that it was not "uncommon" for issues like this to arise and that "rigorous and regular servicing takes place in line with horological industry standards".

When the tower, which stands at 96 metres tall was completed in 1859, it was the largest and most accurate four-faced striking and chiming clock in the world. It was originally known as the Clock Tower before it was renamed in 2012 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.



The five-year refurbishment of the Elizabeth Tower cost £80 million

FINNBARR WEBSTER/GETTY IMAGES



Ship comes in El Galeón arrives in Weymouth harbour in Dorset. The full-size replica of the 17th-century vessel Galeón Andalucía will be open to visitors until Monday

Takeaway apps could drive health revolution by listing salads higher

Eleanor Hayward
Health Correspondent, Dublin

People choose healthier takeaways when delivery apps provide calorie information and list salads above junk food, research shows.

Companies such as Deliveroo, UberEats and Just Eat have been urged to "take responsibility" for obesity after an Oxford University study found that "small tweaks" to their menu displays resulted in people ordering 200 fewer calories per meal.

Effective changes include listing healthy meals and healthy restaurants at the top of the app, making small portion sizes the default option and including calorie labels and the recommended calorie intake for adults per meal.

The scientists tested a number of different interventions in trials involving 23,783 adults. A control group, using a standard app, ordered about 1,400 calories each on average. When people used an app that automatically displayed healthier foods and restaurants more prominently than fast-food options, it led to an average reduction of 209 calories per order.

A similar reduction, of 177 calories per order, was seen when "small" portion sizes were renamed as "regular" and provided as the default option.

Putting calorie labels on menu options, including the total number of calories in the checkout basket, led to reductions of 110 calories per order.

The use of food-ordering apps has increased by 55 per cent since 2015 and about half of adults in Britain regularly buy meals on their smartphones.

Research has shown that people who use delivery apps are significantly more likely to be obese, as meals tend to be fattier and more highly processed than those cooked at home. Takeaway meals typically contain twice as many calories as supermarket equivalents and experts have said the ability to order food 24/7 is partly to blame for record obesity.

The Oxford researchers said that minor changes could be a vital tool in helping to reduce obesity. Two thirds of adults in the UK are said to be obese or overweight.

Anna Keleher, a co-author of the study, said: "More and more people are using delivery apps, and more often, and so these small changes are going to make a larger difference as that trend continues.

"It's hard to say exactly how much these apps are contributing to obesity, but we do know that people are substituting [takeaway] food for home-cooked food, so it is becoming more of an issue."

As delivery apps grew, she said, so did their responsibility to public health.

The study was led by the behavioural insights team at Nesta, a charity formerly known as No 10's "nudge unit".

Dr Filippo Bianchi, the lead author, said: "This doesn't mean that we always have to swap pizza for a green salad. Even initiatives that make it easy to make small changes to what we eat could help to slowly reduce obesity, if delivered at scale."

Katharine Jenner, director of the Obesity Health Alliance, said that the research could help to make a healthy choice the "easy choice". She said: "Delivery apps have proliferated so much in the last few years that ordering a takeaway is no longer just an occasional treat.

"The choices that we make are heavily influenced by not just what's on the menu, but by the never-ending stream of adverts, the constant prompts and special offers. This interesting research shows how we might be able to put healthier food back in the spotlight."

Ban on free booze to curb drunken flings at nursing event

Rosie Taylor

Nurses have been restricted to mocktails and soft drinks to curb inappropriate behaviour at their annual knees-up.

The Royal College of Nursing barred free alcohol at its annual congress after an independent review revealed a "boozy, sexualised culture".

The 2,700 delegates were greeted in Brighton this week with fruit juice cocktails in lieu of a drinks reception.

The union's usually convivial social was replaced with a "two-course meal and a soft drink" at the DoubleTree by Hilton Metropole hotel on Wednesday.

The RCN brought in the policy last month, following the review of culture within the union and its management.

The report by Bruce Carr KC, published in October, found that the annual event was "seen as a place at which there is, for at least some attendees, an expectation of, or an opportunity for, sex to take place … There is also the opportunity for alcohol and power-related exploitation of the vulnerable."

Extra-marital affairs were common, with the term "congress wife [or husband]" in "common usage" as a way of referring to the flings that took place.

The Carr review was commissioned in 2021 after allegations of sexual harassment. The RCN moved its annual congress online that year to ensure the "safety" of delegates.

The programme at the event, the first since the report was published, featured a two-page guide detailing how the RCN was "keeping you safe".

It stated: "There is a zero-tolerance approach and verbal or physical abuse, coercion, sexual harassment, discrimination or any other form of inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated."

Nurses were offered a "wellbeing hub" featuring a "safe space" where they were encouraged to speak to staff about "any challenging situations". There was no ban on nurses buying drinks outside the event but no alcohol was on sale within the venue. An RCN spokesperson said: "New safeguarding measures and protocols have been introduced and we are … rethinking our approach to equality and inclusivity."

Quintagram® No 1632

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Creative pursuit (3)

— — —

2 Mediterranean capital (6)

— — — — — —

3 *Seven — for Seven Brothers*, film (6)

— — — — — —

4 Deliver a speech to (7)

— — — — — — —

5 Principal male actor (7,3)

— — — — — — — — — —

A	A	A	A	A	B	D	D
D	D	E	E	E	E	G	H
I	I	L	M	N	N	N	R
R	R	S	S	S	S	T	T

Solutions T2 MindGames p19
Cryptic clues T2 MindGames p18

Couzens arrest failure

A former Metropolitan Police officer has admitted failures in dealing with reports of indecent exposure by Wayne Couzens but told a misconduct hearing that nothing she could have done would have "prevented the tragedy" of Sarah Everard's murder. Samantha Lee, 29, went to a McDonald's on March 3, 2021, and identified Couzens as a suspect, but no arrest was made. The Met firearms officer kidnapped Everard that night. The hearing continues.

Middletons' firm sold

Party Pieces Holdings, the children's party business founded by the Princess of Wales's parents, has been bought out of administration by James Sinclair, an entrepreneur, for an undisclosed sum. Carole and Michael Middleton founded the business in 1987 but sales dropped during the pandemic when the lockdowns cut demand.

It started with a kiss

The earliest recorded kiss was about 4,500 years ago in the ancient Middle East, 1,000 years earlier than previously thought. Scientists from Copenhagen University found evidence on clay tablets that kissing was practised in the earliest Mesopotamian societies. The study in Science said that it may have contributed to the spread of cold sores.

Ant and Dec to tune out

Ant McPartlin and Declan Donnelly will take a break from hosting the *Saturday Night Takeaway* television show after next year's series. The duo known as Ant and Dec said reaching the "milestone" of 20 series seemed like the "perfect time to pause for a little while". They will continue as the hosts of *I'm a Celebrity … Get Me out of Here!*

No force-feeding

A judge has ruled that a woman aged 50 who has suffered anorexia since she was 14 and cannot "continue the fight" need not be force fed. Mr Justice Mostyn, sitting in the court of protection, heard that the woman — who weighed 31.9kg — found the idea "abhorrent" and staff at North East London NHS trust did not want to force feed her.

Jade Jagger 'arrested after scratching policewoman in restaurant'

Mario Ledwith

The daughter of Sir Mick Jagger and his ex-wife Bianca has been arrested in Ibiza for allegedly assaulting police officers after an altercation at a restaurant.

Jade Jagger, a jeweller and interior designer, is said to have scratched a female officer during the incident on the Spanish island on Wednesday night.

Jagger, 51, was detained by police for allegedly hurling insults at police and physically intervening as they tried to restrain a 31-year-old man with whom she had been dining in the island capital's Old Town.

Police were called to the restaurant at 9pm after Jagger's companion is said to have behaved aggressively towards staff who had refused him more alcohol. The man, described as being drunk, had already left La Olivia restaurant and was behaving erratically on the streets outside when the police arrived.

When officers approached Jagger's companion he responded by hurling insults at them in English and refused to identify himself, according to reports. He then allegedly threw himself at the officers, pushing and hitting them before he was eventually restrained and placed in handcuffs.

It was at this point that Jagger, who was also under the influence of alcohol, according to Spanish media, left the restaurant and is understood to have shouted "stupid police" at officers. The man has been named as Jagger's boyfriend Anthony Hinkson, with whom she was photographed strolling arm in arm in London last month.

Witnesses told Mail Online that Jagger accused police of being racist as six or more officers restrained the man.

"He did not have his T-shirt on and he was bare-chested," one onlooker said. "The police managed to pull him down and they put handcuffs on him, but he was still resisting.

Jagger, a long-time resident of the island, pushed and scratched a female officer during the mêlée, police sources told Spanish media. She was then arrested and taken to a cell. The couple were still being detained at midday on Thursday, local media reported, and are expected to appear in court.

Jagger, who is a grandmother, is the Rolling Stones singer's second-oldest child and the only child from his marriage to Bianca, a Nicaraguan campaigner and former actress. She moved to Ibiza in the 1990s, buying a 400-year-old property with her family close to San Juan, which she then renovated.

Free speech safe with us, Oxford says

George Sandeman

A senior administrator at Oxford University has said free speech is "alive and well" at the institution despite calls by students to cancel a talk by a feminist academic.

Professor Martin Williams, pro-vice-chancellor of education, told students they must be prepared to "encounter and confront difficult views, including ones they find unsettling, extreme or even offensive".

This week 44 academics wrote an open letter in support of Professor Kathleen Stock being able to speak at the Oxford Union. She has been invited by the 200-year-old debating society to appear on May 30.

But Stock's invitation has been criticised by some students, who believe her views on gender identification and transgender rights are transphobic.

In a letter to The Daily Telegraph today, Williams said: "We do not allow the no-platforming of any lawful speech but also support the right of students, staff and societies to protest and challenge speakers at events, as long as they do so within the law and our policies."

He added: "The university and its colleges host hundreds of events each term and we will continue to invite a wide range of speakers. Despite what some may have been led to believe, freedom of speech and expression is alive and well at Oxford."

Williams said that the Oxford Union was no longer banned from having a stall at the freshers' fair, a move that could have put a strain on its finances and ability to recruit new members. Last week the student union tried to sever ties with the society, accusing it of fostering a toxic environment that had led to bullying and sexual harassment.

WATTIE CHEUNG



Sixties supreme A touring retrospective of the innovative early fashion designs of Mary Quant, who died last month at 93, is making its final stop at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow. It opens tomorrow and will run until October 22

Rape victim made to leave armed forces

George Grylls Defence Correspondent

A young woman serving in the armed forces was raped by an elite soldier and then discouraged from reporting her sexual assault because his career was deemed "too important", according to testimony from whistleblowers.

The incident is one of ten "heartrending" accounts submitted to MPs as part of an inquiry into sexual abuse in the armed forces. The evidence is based on the experiences of doctors, both uniformed and civilian, who work with the MoD and regularly deal with servicewomen who are victims of assaults.

The most shocking case involved a "bright, keen and accomplished" servicewoman who was raped on her base by someone with whom she had been in a casual relationship. She was initially told by a GP to "choose her partners more carefully" before another GP persuaded her to report the case.

Senior officers decided the rapist should remain in his unit while she was moved to the other side of the country because his career was "too important". She waited 12 months for therapy for mental trauma, which resulted in her being medically discharged from the armed forces against her will.

Sarah Atherton, the MP for Wrexham who is leading the inquiry, said the "heartrending" cases showed serious failings within the military justice system despite a willingness from the MoD to change behaviours. She renewed her calls for criminal cases involving sexual assault and rape to be automatically passed to civilian courts.

Ben Wallace, the defence secretary, said cultural change "won't happen overnight", adding that "we should also make sure that we recognise that there are other people, women in the army who have had a fantastic experience".

Lego cure for Cambridge exam stress

Laurence Sleator, Michael Hennessy

Cambridge University is offering students games of hide and seek, Lego-building and DIY nail bars in its college and department libraries to help alleviate the stress of exams.

In an effort to provide "wellbeing support", activities such as outdoor yoga, free spider plants, adult colouring books, birdhouse decorating, crochet, origami and rock painting are on offer to students.

The games and activities are part of the university's attempts to improve its mental health services following the deaths of six students last year.

The university said the activities had proved popular and there was "good evidence to suggest that activities promote relaxation and mindfulness". But some students said they felt they were being "mollycoddled" and that the university was performing "infantilising, easy gestures".

Those visiting the Engineering Library can take part in organised games of hide and seek with numerous fidget toys also available.

At Squire Law Library an "activity station" has Lego, jigsaws, colouring, origami and crochet.

In Rosemary Murray Library at Murray Edwards College, a "DIY nail-bar" has been set up to help students "relax and feel pampered", while craft events have featured flower arranging, 'zine making, birdhouse decorating, embroidery and terracotta pot painting. Yoga sessions are also on offer.

At the Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistic Library, students can compete with others in Scrabble challenges. Games such as Linkee and Dobble are also available.

Churchill College offers stress balls and blankets and its library team has composed a "wellbeing collection" of more than 150 books on topics such as race and anti-racism, gender and sexuality and religion and faith. For economics students using the Marshall Library, Jasper, a three-legged ginger tom cat, has been available for meet-and-greet sessions for some time.

The Judge Business School library has several "ergonomic items" to improve the study experience such as weighted blankets, wobble cushions and memory foam arm rests.

Cambridge's drive for better student welfare support follows the Reach Out campaign, enacted in response to the student deaths and criticism in an external report which said its mental health services were "ineffective".

Unveiled in October, Reach Out pledged £4.7 million over three years to reduce waiting times for mental health support services. The wellbeing support provided by libraries is accompanied by tips on managing stress and suggestion of other resources.

Devika Shah, 20, a second-year student at Selwyn College reading Italian and Russian, said she found the resources on offer at the libraries "rather strange". She said: "Simply put, too much mollycoddling and not enough of addressing the actual problem of mental health and lack of fulfilment that the rat-race in Cambridge creates."

Nai Zakaharia, a 33-year-old PhD researcher, said the "infantilising, easy gestures" "feed into the discourse that universities should be safe spaces".

A Cambridge spokesman said: "The university takes the wellbeing of its students very seriously and there is good evidence to suggest that activities that promote relaxation and mindfulness can help reduce anxiety and stress, which can be particularly acute during exam periods. Judging by the takeup of these activities, our students agree."

No message in a bot: AI songs won't move Sting

Musicians will face a "battle" with artificial intelligence (AI) in coming years, Sting has predicted (Peter Chappell writes).

The 71-year-old singer said that in the future artists would have to fight to defend the "human capital" of music.

It comes after an increase in the number of songs using AI to recreate the work of well-known musicians and bands.

Artists including Eminem, Drake and the Weeknd have all had fake copies of their work generated by AI, based on the style of their real tracks.

Last month Breezer, a band in Hastings, released an AI collaboration called *Aisis* simulating Liam Gallagher's voice set to their own Oasis-influenced music. It received positive reviews from Gallagher and the creators said they thought that AI did not pose a risk to creators.

The recording industry has mobilised against artificial intelligence, launching a group called the Human Artistry Campaign and warning that AI companies are violating copyright by training their software on commercially released music.

Speaking to the BBC, Sting said: "The building blocks of music belong to us, to human beings. That's going to be a battle we all have to fight in the next couple of years: Defending our human capital against AI. The tools are useful, but we have to be driving them," he said. "I don't think we can allow the machines to just take over. We have to be wary."

The former lead singer of the Police added that he felt the same way about AI-generated songs as he did about movies that use CGI.

"It doesn't impress me at all," he said. "I get immediately bored when I see a computer-generated image. I imagine I will feel the same way about AI making music.

"Maybe for electronic dance music, it works. But for songs, you know, expressing emotions, I don't think I will be moved by it."

Not all artists are against the technology. Neil Tennant, the singer for the Pet Shop Boys, has suggested that AI could help musicians to overcome writers' block. "There's a song that we wrote a chorus for in 2003 and we never finished because I couldn't think of anything for the verses," he told the Radio Times.

The remarks came before last night's Ivor Novello songwriting awards, where Sting was due to receive a fellowship — the organisation's highest honour. He will be the 23rd fellow the Ivors Academy has inducted in its 79-year history, joining the likes of Sir Paul McCartney, Kate Bush, Joan Armatrading, Peter Gabriel and Sir Elton John.

JOE MAHER/GETTY IMAGES



Sting, with wife Trudie Styler, is "wary" of AI versions of songs by musicians such as the Weeknd



Watergate pair dismiss tech fears

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

Artificial intelligence has the potential to replace many jobs but investigative journalism is not one of them, according to the journalists who uncovered the Watergate scandal.

Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, who reported on the events that led to the resignation of President Nixon in 1974, have cast doubt on how effective the revolutionary technology would be in exposing political scandals.

"I can call the Pentagon and say, 'I'd like to talk to the chairman of the joint chiefs, the top military man', and he's either going to talk or maybe not. AI can't do that," Woodward told the BBC.

The pair were underwhelmed by an AI-generated description of them that Bernstein described as "an amalgam of things that have been written about us".

"Let's not be too enamoured," he said.

Nevertheless he recognised the huge disruption it is likely to cause.

"AI is a huge force we're going to have to grapple with in this world," he said.

The pair's comments were made as Matt Brittin, president of Google in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, set out the impact he expects the technology to have on the labour market.

He said that he was "really optimistic" about how it would be used to help improve productivity, highlighting its ability to automatically answer emails, help develop safe vaccines, curtail computer viruses and remove offensive online content.

"It is likely to shift the tasks that people need to do in most jobs," Brittin said. "Some new jobs will be created but others will go away in this process and we will need to work very responsibly to train people up."

He predicted AI would have an enormous impact on society.

"It's as big in terms of potential for humanity as electricity, or even the discovery of fire," he said. "It sounds a bit scary but it is just intelligent tools and when it gets into people's hands they will realise that."

Sats test was aimed at teenage readers

Emma Yeomans

A Sats reading paper that is being reviewed after teachers and parents said it was too difficult has been published, revealing that it included a passage from a book aimed at older pupils.

Nick Gibb, the schools minister, has promised to look into the paper, which is said to have made some pupils cry.

The paper, for year 6 pupils, aged 10 to 11, was published by the government, along with the mark scheme. It consists of a reading booklet with three text excerpts and a separate booklet of questions about them. One of the extracts is adapted from a book called *The Rise of Wolves*, by Kerr Thomson, a Scottish children's author, which was shortlisted for the Scottish Teenage Book Prize.

Goodreads, the book review website, lists it as a young adult novel, suggesting a reading age of 13 to 18 years. BookTrust gives it a reading age of 10 plus and an "interest age" of 11 to 14, suggesting it is at the upper end of most primary school pupils' reading ability.

The National Association of Head Teachers said that staff had struggled to understand some of the questions.

On Monday Gibb promised to look into the paper, adding: "They do have to test a range of ability to make sure we can show what proportion of children are exceeding the standards … But we don't want these tests to be too hard for children. That's not the purpose."

Mary Bousted, joint general secretary of the National Education Union, said: "This week's key stage 2 Sats have been a punishing experience for many pupils and staff. In the words of one member, 'as a teacher, it's the most stressed I have ever felt'. Children, even if they're confident readers, have struggled to complete papers."

She added: "The problems of Sats are not confined to a single week. For months, sport, the arts, the humanities and the sciences have been squeezed from timetables for English, maths and practice papers." Pupils who did not do as well as expected would be forced to take a "demotivating label" with them to secondary schools, she said.

The reading paper contained 2,106 words of text for children to read, one of the longest ever set and close to the maximum allowed, which is 2,300 words. Last year's reading booklet contained only 1,564 words, the TES magazine found. Adding 1,337 words of questions, a pupil reading at the average speed for their age would have to spend 38.5 minutes of the hour-long test simply reading, leaving 21.5 minutes to write their answers.

Kerry Forrester, head teacher of Tarporley CE primary school in Cheshire, said this year's tests had produced the "most negative impact on our children we have ever experienced". In a letter to her MP, posted online, she wrote: "These are bright, capable children who no matter how many times we tell them not to worry continue to pile immense pressure on themselves. Today really was my 'road to Damascus' moment. My year 6 children, all capable readers who love reading, opened their reading test paper and were broken! Tears flowed from our most capable readers and stress levels rose among all others."

Gillian Hillier, chief executive of the Standards and Testing Agency, said that the papers had been tested with thousands of pupils and that the agency used "a range of rigorous and robust processes to ensure the tests are appropriate and fair".

Sample questions

This passage comes from a story about Priya and her friends seeing sheep being stolen on a camping trip.

1. Passage text:
"Directly opposite, on the far side of the valley, she saw two pairs of headlights, not moving. As she watched, the lights went out. "Then it hit her. Rustlers! They had to be."
Question: "Then it hit her." What is it?
Answer: "It" is Priya's realisation that she has seen sheep rustlers. The mark scheme says "rustlers" alone will not be accepted.

2. Passage text:
"'We have to do something,' Priya said. 'We have to tell the farmer. Abby, wake up!' She shook Abby again, and this time Abby emerged from her sleeping bag rubbing her eyes. 'What time is it?' she asked. 'You'd better not be making this up.'"
Question: 'You'd better not be making this up.' Why does Abby say this to Priya?
Answer: Any reference to Abby being tired, the time of night, or Abby not believing Priya.

This passage comes from an interview about bats in the US city of Austin.

3. Passage text:
"Texas in general is a paradise for bats because of all its tasty insects.
A mother bat will go out hunting every evening and consume about two-thirds of her body weight in insects every single night to meet her energy needs. The feeding frenzy can last all night."
Question: Find and copy one word that is closest in meaning to "eat".
Answer: "Consume". The mark scheme says "feeding" will also be accepted.

Question: Harriet describes bats as vulnerable.
(a) Which of the following is closest in meaning to vulnerable? Foolish, at risk, frightening, tormented
Answer: "At risk"

The Sussex chase, minute by minute

Hostile paparazzi or a reckless security team? **Charlie Parker** and **Will Pavia** examine the events of Tuesday night

"Recollections may vary," the late Queen once remarked in response to damaging claims from the Duke and Duchess of Sussex about the royal family. The same observation has been made in the aftermath of a "near-catastrophic" paparazzi pursuit involving the couple in New York on Tuesday.

Harry and Meghan say they were the victims of a "relentless" two-hour chase, blaming "aggressive" photographers for nearly killing bystanders and police officers. The duke said it was the "closest I have ever felt" to understanding what happened when his mother Diana, Princess of Wales, died.

Witnesses, the couple's taxi driver and police officials have cast doubt on the description of events, with some disputing that lives were at risk. The photographers accused of driving dangerously said that the Sussexes' team were irresponsible behind the wheel.

The Times has reconstructed what happened, based on accounts from Harry and Meghan's office, the local authorities and others.





The Duke and Duchess of Sussex at the ceremony with Doria Ragland, Meghan's mother. They later got in a taxi driven by Sukhcharn Singh, right

6PM: AWARDS CEREMONY

The Sussexes arrived at the Ms Foundation ceremony at the Ziegfeld Ballroom in West 54th Street, slightly after its official start. Meghan was attending with Harry and her mother, Doria Ragland, to accept a women of vision award. Video shows them entering via a Hertz outlet in an attempt to dodge photographers.

9.54PM: DEPARTURE

The trio, accompanied by a private security guard, left to travel to a friend's property on the Upper East Side where they were staying. It is understood they chose not to travel directly to avoid leading photographers there. Fans and photographers took pictures as they left in a large black 4x4, part of a motorcade. Witnesses said some paparazzi followed in their own cars.

10PM: PURSUIT

A New York Police Department (NYPD) vehicle reportedly escorted the couple for more than an hour, in an effort to lose the paparazzi. A spokesman for the couple said that a "near-catastrophic car chase" ensued, involving about a dozen "highly aggressive paparazzi" in cars, on mopeds and on bicycles. It was claimed that in their "relentless pursuit" they went through red lights, drove the wrong way down a street and narrowly missed pedestrians and police officers. Chris Sanchez, a member of the couple's security team, told CNN it was a "chaotic" scene that "could have been fatal".

One paparazzi driver blamed the couple's team for any "catastrophic experience", telling ITV anonymously that their driver was "zigzagging" and "blocking" vehicles. A celebrity news agency claiming to have video of the pursuit agreed. Police appeared to play down the events. They said photographers had made the journey "challenging" but there had been no collisions, injuries or arrests.

11.15PM: ARRIVAL AT POLICE STATION

After being followed for 75 minutes, the group was driven to an NYPD command post in East 67th Street. They stayed for 15 minutes, huddling in a garage, according to the New York Post, before deciding to switch vehicles. Sanchez waved down a taxi.

11.30PM: TEN-MINUTE TAXI RIDE

Sukhcharn Singh pulled up to let the group of four into his cab. He drove for about a block and a half, then got stuck behind a dustcart, telling Sky News that "all of a sudden paparazzi came and started taking pictures".

Video shows the vehicle stuck in traffic in East 67th Street accompanied by two police cars with flashing blue lights.

Singh said that at this point they were being pursued by two vehicles: a black Honda Accord and an older, grey Honda CR-V. He said it was not a "chase" and that despite his passengers being "nervous", they were not in danger. Sanchez asked Singh to return to the police station.

11.40PM: FINAL LEG

Sources told the New York Post that the duke, the duchess and her mother remained hidden long enough for police to block traffic and arrange alternative transport. This time they got into the car and left "undisturbed" without being followed, arriving at the apartment after midnight.

AFTERMATH: INFORMATION WAR

Ashley Hansen, a press secretary for the duke and duchess, said she had "never experienced their vulnerability as much as I did last night", and that the couple were left "incredibly scared and shaken-up".

Backgrid, a celebrity news agency that filmed the couple, said it had seen several pictures that showed the duchess smiling in the taxi. It accused the driver of "one of the four SUVs from Prince Harry's security escort" of "driving in a manner that could be perceived as reckless". It said that it did not condone harrassment or illegal activity and was investigating the Sussexes' claims. Another witness said that the couple's team had been taunting the photographers. "They were mocking the paps, provoking them," the witness told the New York Post, adding that their security "egged on the paps".

Eric Adams, the mayor of New York, said he would find it hard to believe that a high-speed chase took place for two hours, though "even a ten-minute chase is extremely dangerous".

Queen's funeral and mourning period cost the nation £162m

Patrick Maguire Red Box Editor

The Queen's funeral, lying in state and other events during last year's national mourning cost taxpayers £162 million, the Treasury has revealed.

Six government departments and two devolved administrations between them covered the cost of the 11 days of ceremony and security that culminated in the state funeral.

John Glen, the Treasury minister, told MPs in a written statement that the expense had ensured that events "ran smoothly and with the appropriate level of dignity, while at all times ensuring the safety and security of the public".

The Home Office, which is responsible for policing and national security, spent the most of any department at £73.7 million.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport, which organised the four-day lying in state in Westminster Hall that was attended by more than 250,000 people, spent £57.4 million.

The Scottish government, which organised much of the ceremony in the immediate aftermath of the Queen's death at Balmoral on September 8, spent £18.8 million.

The Ministry of Defence spent £2.9 million, the Department for Transport £2.6 million and the Welsh government £2.2 million. The Foreign Office and the Northern Ireland Office spent £2.1 million each.

The scale of the event is reflected in the fact that the cost was far in excess of other royal events.

The 2001 ceremonial funeral for the Queen Mother is thought to have cost about £4.5 million, while that of Diana, Princess of Wales, in 1997 cost about £5 million, equivalent to about £8 million today.

Britain's last state funeral, for Winston Churchill in 1965, cost £1 million in today's money.

The costs were partly explained by the cross-UK nature of the events, Glen told MPs. He said: "Many more people also came out to support His Majesty the King and other members of the royal family as they travelled around the UK during this time."

The estimates are for marginal costs: those that would not otherwise have been incurred by the departments.

'WFH is closing the door on era

Steven Swinford Political Editor
Lara Spirit Red Box reporter
Henry Zeffman Associate Political Editor

The era of massive house price rises is coming to an end because of the increase in working from home, rising interest rates and slower population growth, a senior economist at the government's spending watchdog has said.

David Miles, an economist at the Office for Budget Responsibility, said that growth in house prices would be "much weaker" than it had been for the past 40 years.

He said that the rise in people working from home since the Covid pandemic had given people more choices about where they could live.

"Those forces driving [house prices] up are going to be much weaker, I suspect, in the next 40 years than they have been in the past 40 years," he told a conference held by the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence in London. "If anything, this unusual age of massive rises of house prices may be nearing an end." He said that house prices had risen particularly quickly in the UK compared with other countries because of constraints on housebuilding.

A poll published yesterday suggests that Britain is facing a generational divide over the green belt as a majority of young people favour relaxing restrictions to allow more development. The Fabian Society/YouGov found that 63per cent of under-25s supported building more affordable housing on the green belt, compared with 32 per cent of over-65s.

The issue of the green belt has become a political dividing line between Labour and the Tories. Rishi Sunak vowed yesterday to protect "our green spaces" as he criticised Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader.

Starmer revealed in an interview with The Times published on Wednesday that he wanted to open a discussion about making it easier to build on green belt land. Starmer is determined to put housebuilding at the centre of his election pitch in an attempt to cast Labour as the party of growth.

Asked about Starmer's comments en route to the G7 summit in Japan, Sunak said: "I was very clear over the summer what I was going to do, which was move away from a system of nationally imposed top-down housing targets on local areas. I don't think that is the right approach. In government, as prime minister, that is what I have delivered — relatively shortly after taking office.

"I was very clear over the summer — I wanted to make sure our green spaces are protected. I think that is what local communities want." He added: "We've made it easier for local communities to adopt local plans so they can have a more meaningful say in the type of development happening in their areas … what I find is that it's not necessarily an opposition to housing itself, it's how and where exactly it is done and the infrastructure that comes alongside it."

Michael Gove, the housing secretary, wrote to Starmer, saying: "Your shadow cabinet colleagues with constituencies in England regularly oppose development… At the last count more than three quarters of them had been blockers not builders. Is this not a case of do as I say but not as I do?"

In his interview Starmer accused the Conservatives of killing "the aspiration of home owning" for a generation and warned that housebuilding was on course to fall to its lowest postwar level.

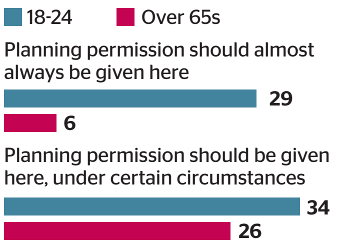
In December Sunak dropped mandatory targets for housebuilding and introduced an array of new planning restrictions, including enhanced protections of green belt land.

Lichfields, a planning consultancy, has said that the combined effect of the measures could result in the number of new homes built in England falling from 233,000 to 156,000 a year.

Starmer told The Times he would be "tough enough to take on vested interests," accusing "developers and landowners" of building too little housing to drive up prices.

Build on the green belt — but do it wisely, Emma Duncan, page 26

Q How easy or difficult do you think it should be to obtain planning permission to build affordable housing on green belt land?



2,087 adults in Great Britain May 11–12, 2023
Source: YouGov

Interest rate rises 'risky'

Steven Swinford

The Bank of England should "press pause" on raising interest rates because it could endanger the economic recovery and leave people facing an even "tighter squeeze", a senior adviser to Jeremy Hunt has warned.

Andy Haldane, a former chief economist at the Bank of England, said that the recovery was "still on pretty unsteady legs" and that raising interest rates could bring on a recession.

Haldane, who sits on Hunt's economic advisory council, said the bank and the government could "take a bit more time" to bring inflation down. The bank raised interest rates by 0.25 points to 4.5 per cent this month.

Haldane told the New Statesman: "What I'd be doing in this situation is probably pressing the pause button. I think there's a lot of tightening in the pipeline already, most of which we haven't yet seen the full effects of, as it hits people's mortgage payments later in the year. The recovery is still on pretty unsteady legs."

He said there could be damaging consequences if interest rates continued to rise. "It'll be a tighter squeeze. It increases a bit the risk of us entering recession this year," he said.

Haldane said that the Tory and Labour parties need to be more ambitious with their fiscal rules. "There's not so much as a fag paper to put between [them] when it comes to fiscal rules and fiscal rectitude right now," he said. "That really lacks ambition at a time when it's still, by any historical standard, incredibly cheap for governments to borrow."

Highlighting the huge American programme of green subsidies, Haldane said: "And where are we? We're way back, and we need to do much better than that, not just on net zero, but beyond."







Rishi Sunak endears himself to Fumio Kishida, his Japanese counterpart, by wearing the logo of the Hiroshima Toyo Carp baseball team on his socks after Sunak and his wife, Akshata Murty, arrived in the city

Hunt offers Jaguar £500m for factory

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

Jeremy Hunt has offered one of Britain's biggest car manufacturers half a billion pounds in government subsidies not to build a new electric battery "gigafactory" abroad.

Amid concern about how the car industry will adapt to making electric vehicles, the Treasury has drawn up a package of incentives to persuade Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) to invest in the UK.

The company, owned by the Indian conglomerate Tata, is weighing up whether to build its new gigafactory for electric vehicles in the UK or Spain.

The government package includes a cash grant, reduced energy costs and paying to upgrade the power network around the potential site in Somerset.

The government is also sweetening the offer by tying it to a further £300 million for Tata to upgrade and decarbonise its Port Talbot steelworks.

Last year the chairman of Tata said that it could close its UK steel operations without financial support.

The £500 million subsidy for JLR is a huge government investment for a single project. The government's automotive transformation fund has a budget of only £1 billion. But the fear is that if firms such as Tata decide to manufacture batteries offshore, eventually car assembly plants in the UK will follow.

A decision by the company is expected soon.

Exports account for nearly 80 per cent of all cars produced in the UK. However, car exports fell by 14 per cent last year amid concerns that the country is falling behind its competitors in investing in battery production.

There is also increasing nervousness among ministers that the UK is being squeezed by the European Union, which published a green deal industrial plan in February, and the American Inflation Reduction Act, which offers huge tax breaks to renewables projects.

The chancellor and Kemi Badenoch, the business secretary, are due to publish an advanced manufacturing plan next month in an effort to compete for international green investment. This is likely to be accompanied by new funding but some business leaders fear it is unlikely to be enough to compete with incentives abroad.

A Whitehall source said ministers had spent "a lot of time" on the "generous" Tata package. "Everybody understands how important this is," the source said.

Industry experts have expressed concern that the UK is running out of time to develop its own battery manufacturing industry, given heavy investment in the US, China and the EU.

Mike Hawes, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said the UK had not yet "missed the boat" but said "the boat has got its engines fired up, ready to go".

Rishi Sunak said he was "engaged in a dialogue" with the EU about a potential 10 per cent tariff for car exporters. Under current rules, 40 per cent of the value of an electric vehicle should originate in the UK or EU to qualify for tariff-free trade. However, this percentage will rise to 45 per cent from the beginning of next year.

Quentin Letts

Bailey gets a dose of quantitative tightening

Political Sketch

An away match for the Treasury select committee saw MPs travel to the Bank of England to question its governor, Andrew Bailey. What a fortress: marbled halls, portraits of long-dead Herberts, a mulberry-shaded courtyard and mosaics of Mycenaean lions. A slightly camp sculpture of a chap in ancient Roman kit with hand on hip turned out to be William III, by Sir Henry Cheere, Bt (1703-81). There was me thinking it was Bailey's predecessor, that dapper little Caesar Mark Carney.

Bailey, a clammier specimen, has struggled to establish his gubernatorial authority. Holding this select committee event at the Bank gave home-turf advantage to him and his two garrulous deputies, Ben Broadbent and Sir Dave Ramsden; yet the venue lacked parliamentary resonance. When experts are summoned to Westminster there is a sense of the people's tribunes holding them to account. This hearing, in a high-tech space in the Bank's upper reaches, felt more loftily technocratic.

Only four MPs attended, all of them Conservative. Danny Kruger

of rocketing property prices'

STEFAN ROUSSEAU/PA



UK to sanction Russia's metals and diamonds

Henry Zeffman Hiroshima
George Grylls Defence Correspondent

Rishi Sunak will announce sanctions on Russian diamonds and metals as part of an effort to intensify pressure on President Putin.

The prime minister will use the first day of the G7 summit of world leaders in Japan to argue that the world must "redouble support for Ukraine's defence".

He will link the meeting in Hiroshima to the war in Ukraine, saying that the gathering in "a city that exemplifies both the horrors of war and the dividends of peace" shows how important it is to "defend the values of freedom, democracy and tolerance, both in Ukraine and here in the Indo-Pacific".

The action on diamonds will be followed by sanctions on 86 new people and companies "from Putin's military-industrial complex". They will focus on entities related to Russia's "key revenue streams" of energy, metals and shipping.

Each G7 nation is expected to announce similar sanctions during the summit, almost a decade after Russia was expelled from the group because of its annexation of Crimea.

The UK is also banning the import of Russian-origin copper, aluminium and nickel. Russia's rough diamond exports were worth $5 billion in 2021 and about 40 per cent of diamonds come from mines operated by Alrosa, a company that is two-thirds owned by the Russian state.

Russia is the largest producer of diamonds in the world, but most of its exports are cut and polished in countries such as India and Belgium, where the diamond industry supports 10,000 jobs in Antwerp. It imported $1.8 billion of Russian diamonds in 2021 and had been lobbying against sanctions but has softened its stance of late.

Today, the first day of the summit, Sunak will visit the A-bomb dome at Hiroshima Peace Park, which commemorates the atomic bomb dropped in 1945. He will attend sessions on Ukraine, international co-operation, Indo-Pacific security policy and nuclear non-proliferation.

Speaking before the summit, which runs until Sunday, Sunak said: "We must show that brutal violence and coercion does not reap rewards. As [our] sanctions announcements demonstrate, the G7 remains unified in the face of the threat from Russia and steadfast in our support for Ukraine."

The UK has sanctioned more than 130 oligarchs with a net worth of £140 billion since the war began. In total, 1,550 Russians are subject to travel bans and asset freezes.

Efforts to curb the Russian economy have been undermined by India and China buying oil and gas from Moscow at discounted rates. Western officials believe, however, that the sanctions are hindering the Russian war effort by making it more difficult to import goods such as computer chips.

Sunak had dinner last night with Fumio Kishida, the Japanese prime minister, at which they signed the Hiroshima accord, a pact designed to contain Chinese aggression in the region.

Sunak wore the socks of the baseball team supported by Kishida as the pair joked about their sporting loyalties. In keeping with Japanese custom, the prime minister had to remove his shoes, revealing Hiroshima Toyo Carp socks. "I hope your baseball team has had a better season than my football team," he said. Sunak supports Southampton, who will be relegated from the Premier League at the end of the season.

(Devizes) arrived in a straw hat, perhaps the first panama seen at this address since the days of Montagu Norman. Curious citizens, who are normally entitled to attend Commons committees, were not admitted. Save a handful of reporters, the gallery seats seemed to be occupied by Bank employees.

The day's topic was "quantitative tightening". This is the reverse of quantitative easing, to which central bankers became addicted 16 years ago. Did easing ignite today's problematic inflation? Is tightening now making things worse? Bailey and Co pooh-poohed the idea. The MPs, particularly John Baron (Basildon & Billericay) and Andrew Leadsom (South Northants), were not so sure. Baron felt there had been "a woeful neglect of duty" by the Bank when it failed to raise interest rates sufficiently early.

Bailey, Broadbent and Ramsden tried to explain what had gone wrong and what they were now doing. We heard about "headroom", "downward adjustments", "natural passive run-offs", "yield curves" and "curve coefficients". Ramsden manipulated his lengthy fingers in the air, like an *Antiques Roadshow* presenter handling some orb made of invisible crystal. You expect a deputy governor of markets and banking to be good with his digits, I suppose.

Ramsden is president of the Society of Professional Economists. Bluffers Anonymous.

On the other side of Bailey sat Broadbent. Parliament TV viewers may have thought him a seamless blame-dodger but the cameras did not catch what was going on under the table. Broadbent was wearing dark, apparently suede loafers, and he kept kicking these off and twirling his tootsies. Picture a duck's frantic paddlework as it is being sucked towards the weir. If Bank of England deputy governors must wear slip-on shoes, they might at least keep them on their feet at a parliamentary hearing.

Bailey allowed his underlings to do much of the talking. Carney would not have done that. He would have seen the political value in projecting an aura of command. Bailey does not, or cannot, do that. When he did speak, it was often at a mumble, reclining in his chair and leaning his weight on one elbow. "We are developing the toolkit," he blathered. A governor who says "toolkit".

Broadbent, with his air of liquid expertise, mentioned "consensus forecasts". Baron: "Consensus forecasts!" The MP's mocking scepticism was quite lost on Broadbent.

Leadsom described the harm inflation was doing to constituents and businesses. Ah yes, said Bailey, but you ought to see how quantitative easing was "helping the supply of collateral into repo markets". Leadsom called one of his answers "simplistic" and "superficial". Bailey frowned and huffed and smiled and squeaked and came over all nerdy. He could have been one of those computer-support wonks who come to give your email a service, start tapping at the keyboard, say, "Oh, that's interesting" and then "Hmm, that doesn't normally happen" and leaves your system completely banjaxed.

I'll still be PM after next election, insists Sunak

Henry Zeffman
Associate Political Editor, Hiroshima

Rishi Sunak has said he is confident of being prime minister after the next general election and ruled out striking a deal to stay in power in the event of a hung parliament.

After a sobering set of local election results for the Conservatives, some of Sunak's MPs believe it will be a struggle for the party to win an unprecedented fifth term.

But asked whether he was confident he would still be prime minister after the election, expected next year, Sunak replied simply: "Yes."

He continued: "I'm working really hard to deliver for the British people. That is my priority. That is what I'm spending most of my time thinking about. Not thinking actually about my job."

Sunak added: "I spend most of my time thinking about everyone else, and their jobs. I set out five priorities. I believe to my core that those are the priorities the country wants us to focus on. And I'm working day and night to deliver them."

Asked about the possibility of a hung parliament, Sunak said: "I'm not particularly interested in any chat about coalitions … All I'm focusing on is delivering for the British people. That is literally my sole focus. Worrying about coalitions and future elections — that's not on my mind. What's on my mind is halving inflation, growing the economy, reducing debt, cutting waiting lists, stopping the boats."

Asked to rule out a deal with the Democratic Unionist Party, who kept Theresa May in office after the 2017 general election, Sunak said: "I have been clear and I will be clear, I'm not interested in coalition, I'm interested in delivering for the British people."

Pressed on whether he was ruling out a deal with the DUP, Sunak said: "I am."


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Young cousins given life term for 'well planned' murder of boy, 15

Tom Ball Northern Correspondent

The mother of a 15-year-old boy who was stabbed as he walked home from school with friends has said that "this violence has to stop" after two teenagers were jailed for life for his murder.

Jovani Harriott, 17, will serve a minimum of 18 years, and his cousin Jakele Pusey, 15, will serve a minimum of 16 years for the murder of Khayri Mclean. The pair can be named after an anonymity order was lifted after their sentencing at Leeds crown court.

Khayri was stabbed while making his way home from North Huddersfield Trust School in the West Yorkshire town on September 21 last year.

In what was described as a "well-planned" attack, the cousins, who were dressed in black and wearing balaclavas, laid in wait for Khayri in an alley before ambushing him. Pusey shouted Khayri's name before stabbing him in the heart with a 30cm (12in) blade. Harriott then knifed the boy in the leg.

Khayri was pulled to his feet by his friends and tried to run away but collapsed. Teachers and pupils from his school tried to help and sat with him as they waited for an ambulance. He later died in hospital.

His mother Charlie Mclean said that "this violence has to stop" and in a statement read out in court described how she rushed to the scene after hearing that her son had been injured and watched "helplessly" as paramedics fought to save her son's life.

She said that she had been "living a nightmare" since her son's death, adding: "No parent should have to contemplate this, let alone witness it. The cowards responsible for my son's murder took the life of a son, brother and friend who had his whole life ahead of him and was looking forward to a bright future.

"I ask myself what has this achieved? What has my son died for? Nobody has won in this situation. I've lost a child and other parents have lost two sons who have committed this offence."

Pusey, who was a member of the "Fartown" gang in Huddersfield, had been involved in drug dealing from the age of 13 and was shot by masked gunman aged 12, the court was told.

Jonathan Sandiford, KC, for the prosecution, said that Khayri was targeted because he shared a video on social media about the window of the Harriott's family home being broken.

Sandiford said that Pusey had admitted murdering Khayri in a recording covertly obtained while he was in detention. During the conversation, the boy said that he felt "no remorse" and claimed to have "slept better" since the killing, the prosecutor said.

Even Fleabag can't rescue Indiana Jones this time

Film Kevin Maher

Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny
Cannes Film Festival
★★☆☆☆

JONATHAN OLLEY/LUCASFILM LTD.



Phoebe Waller-Bridge, a screen talisman, and Harrison Ford, still exuding charisma at 80, do battle with a lazy script, a journeyman director and a film on autopilot

The good news is that it's not as poor as *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.* The bad news is that it's not much better. A meandering, frequently enervating yawn, this fifth and most expensive Indy outing yet (about $300 million) is a curious demonstration of how a Hollywood studio can fire nearly a third of a billion bucks at late 20th century nostalgia and get it so wrong. Even the screen talisman Phoebe Waller-Bridge — she of Fleabag — playing Indy's cash-grabbing goddaughter, Helena, can do little to enliven a movie that wants to be both a thoughtful character study of an ageing archaeologist and a propulsive rerun of his past adventures, yet doesn't quite do either. And no, blasting the John Williams fanfare every ten seconds doesn't mean that you've made a classic Indiana Jones adventure. The music, in fact, is so overused that it eventually acquires a nails-along-the-blackboard quality. "De de duh duh …" Oh, shut up!

The ominous signs are all in the opening sequence, a horrible flashback misadventure set at the close of the Second World War and featuring an, ahem, "young" Indiana Jones ie fortysomething Harrison Ford synthetically re-generated by the best computers that money can buy. He looks, in short, exactly like Harrison Ford, but Harrison Ford who's been lobotomised, had his eyes replaced with marbles and his face covered with a thin sheen of rubber. Never mind, this Indy is soon wrestling Nazis for the magical "Lance of Longinus" until, in the kind of lazy script diversion that is far beneath the fraternal co-writers John-Henry and Jez Butterworth, he suddenly decides to wrestle the same Nazis for the "Dial of Archimedes" (don't ask).

After some more overused fanfares we cut to New York in 1969 and to the few rewarding moments when the movie shows some heart. Here we meet a geriatric Indy, captured by the octogenarian star, first in his pants, asleep by the TV, and later moaning about his "crumbling vertebrae" and "fuzzy memory". The richness doesn't last long, alas, and the journeyman director James Mangold is soon plodding through the greatest hits. Indy searches for a treasure that's split into two parts (*Raiders*), he leads a zany fight in a nightclub while trying to grab a mcguffin (*Temple of Doom*) and, after some superfluous pitstops (Poor Antonio Banderas!), he enjoys a quasi-spiritual experience that will help him reflect upon mortality (*Last Crusade*). Ford, despite all this, remains on charisma overload. Even when the machine around him is on autopilot, he brings his weathered gravitas to perhaps his most significant character. Inevitably he, and Indy, deserved better.

In cinemas from June 30

Mirror papers 'were like gangsters'

David Brown

Allegations that a tabloid publisher was involved in unlawful information-gathering is a "true crime story", an investigative journalist told the Duke of Sussex's High Court case yesterday.

Graham Johnson drew a parallel with the activities of drugs gangs and what he claimed was "organised crime" involving Mirror Group Newspapers.

Johnson, 55, who received a suspended jail sentence for phone hacking while investigations editor of the Sunday Mirror, said that as a journalist he had investigated criminal activity. "The Mirror is no different to an organised crime group in that respect," he alleged. "It can be defined as an organised crime group because it was involved in systemic crime over many years, involving hundreds of people." The alleged activity involved "millions and millions of pounds" spent on private investigators.

Johnson claims to have exposed "a large variety of methods of unlawful information gathering" via his investigations into newspaper practices. He said he had approached the BBC, ITV and newspapers, but they did not want to write or make documentaries about it.

Johnson relied on confidential sources for information about the alleged work of private investigators on such stories, the court was told. "One of the reasons sources will not come forward and be identified is because they will be punished," he said. "They are relentlessly attacked in the newspapers — they are blacklisted."

Johnson has claimed to have experienced "abuse" and "threats" from Christine Hart, an alleged blagger, who has denied his claims that she spied on celebrities at the Priory rehab clinic. He claimed that Gavin Burrows, a private investigator had written "abusive" tweets about him. "It's not unusual on this story, these were the type of people which were employed by the newspapers to do their dirty work," he said. "The Mirror Group encouraged these people to behave like this."

Johnson, who was a senior reporter and then investigations editor from 1997 to 2005 at the Sunday Mirror, has told the court he was instructed in 2001 by Mark Thomas, then deputy editor, with the knowledge of Tina Weaver, then editor, to "intercept the voicemails" of the actress Denise Welch. He later went to the police, admitted that he "only ever hacked phones on a few days in 2001", and received a suspended prison sentence in December 2014.

Johnson has denied having confessed to phone hacking only as a "self-confessed professional liar bent on self-preservation", adding yesterday that it was "a genuine act of admission".



Graham Johnson claims to be a whistleblower

The journalist, who describes himself as a "whistleblower", asked why certain journalists, alleged information blaggers and private investigators were not giving evidence. "None of these people will give evidence and I'd like to know why," he said, adding: "I'd like to know why Piers Morgan isn't here." Morgan, the Mirror's editor between 1995 and 2004, has denied involvement in phone hacking.

The hearing continues.

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Trans butcher's sex assault on girl

David McCann

A transgender butcher has admitted abducting an 11-year-old schoolgirl while dressed as a woman before sexually assaulting her at his home.

Andrew Miller, who is also known as Amy George and claims to be in the process of transitioning to a female, offered to give the girl a lift home in February. The victim did not think Miller, whom she did not know, was a threat and accepted his offer.

The 53-year-old instead drove her to his house in the Scottish Borders, locked her in a bedroom and refused to let her leave. He then subjected her to a series of sexual assaults over 27 hours. She was able to escape from the bedroom after Miller fell asleep. She found his landline phone, dialled 999 and the police arrived within minutes.

Miller was still sleeping when he was arrested and was found wearing a bra with silicone breast inserts, female underwear and tights.

The court was told that Miller abducted the girl as she walked home in Melrose after spending the day with friends on Sunday, February 5. She had decided to return home after the battery on her phone ran out.

Miller was married until around 2002. He owned the Millers of Melrose butchers in the town's high street, which had not been open for several months before the abduction. After his arrest Miller told police he was transitioning to a woman but wanted to be referred to by his male identity and use male pronouns.

He pleaded guilty to the charges at the High Court in Edinburgh via videolink. The offences included abduction, sexual assault, possession of indecent images of children and intentionally causing a child under the age of 13 to look at a sexual image. They were committed at his three-bedroom detached bungalow in the village of Gattonside.

The court was told that Miller had told the girl he intended to keep her for a week but on another occasion said she was "his new family" and would not be allowed to leave. During her abduction Miller watched pornography while wearing a bra and female pants.

In a statement to police, Miller said he had offered the girl a lift because it was the "motherly thing" to do.

"I was trying to be nice. I put her in bed with me to warm up," he said. "I don't know why I did it, it's just one of these things. I should have phoned the police. I didn't even think of her age or realise she was 11. I realised that I was waking up next to an 11-year-old and it went from there and I panicked."

On the second night, she knocked over a glass of water to see if it would rouse Miller who had fallen asleep in the bed beside her. When he did not wake up, she turned on a light, which also did not disturb him.

She attempted to escape but the front door was locked and the key removed. She called 999 on the landline and within 11 minutes nine police officers arrived. She was said to be shaking and crying and was taken to hospital.

Lorraine Glancy KC, for the prosecution, told the court about the moments leading up to the rescue.

"The 999 call was recorded," she said. "The child's obvious fear and distress is palpable as she describes to the operator what has happened to her … Her relief upon hearing the police at the door to rescue her is obvious."

Lord Arthurson deferred sentence on Miller for reports on whether he met the criteria for an order for lifelong restriction. This is an effective life sentence and offenders are released once the parole board are satisfied they no longer pose a threat to public safety. The case will next be heard in August.

Arthurson told Miller: "Your actions represent abhorrent crimes of the utmost depravity and criminality. Your actions are the realisation of every parent's worst nightmare."

Miller started using the name Amy George six years ago. He was vocal on social media about transgender issues and supported Nicola Sturgeon's moves when she was first minister to make it easier for people to change their gender.

Humza Yousaf, Sturgeon's successor, confirmed that Miller was in a male prison but refused to say whether he would be moved to a women's jail after sentencing. "This is a gut-wrenching case," he said. "I cannot think of the trauma the victim, the family and community are going through."







Andrew Miller, left and below, was prosecuted as a man and asked to be known by he/him pronouns in court. Above, he is led away from court after an earlier hearing

Installation of car chargers lags behind

Ben Clatworthy
Transport Correspondent

The target for high-speed electric vehicle chargers at motorway services is likely to be missed in the latest blow to the government's green motoring agenda.

In March last year the Department for Transport (DfT) pledged to "ensure that every motorway service area had at least six rapid chargers by the end of 2023". However, new analysis found that just 27 out of 119 motorway services in England meet the target.

The RAC, which carried out the research, urged the government to make the process of installing the technology simpler.

A rapid charge point can add about 100 miles of range to an electric car in 35 minutes. Although motorists pay more for high-speed charging, the installation of rapid chargers is seen as vital to encouraging more drivers to make the switch to electric.

Simon Williams, an RAC spokesman, said: "Installing these types of units is not straightforward as connecting to the electricity grid is expensive and time-consuming, but clearly more needs to be done to make this process simpler than it is currently.

"While we understand the government is taking steps to expedite matters, the importance of ensuring sufficient high-powered charging is readily available up and down our motorway network can't be emphasised enough."

A lack of charging infrastructure is widely cited as one of the biggest barriers to people switching to electric vehicles, along with so-called range anxiety — how far they can travel before battery charge runs out, leaving them stranded. The RAC analysis is based on statistics by Zapmap, the charger locator service.

A DfT document from March last year said that "many operators" of motorway services had "embraced the ambition" to install six high-powered chargers by the end of this year, with "over 70 per cent " of locations having plans.

It added: "We will continue to work with site operators to ensure that every site is reached."

The sale of new petrol and diesel cars will be banned in 2030 while new hybrid cars, which use a combination of electric and conventional fuels, will be banned in 2035.

The government wants 300,000 public charge points to be installed nationwide by 2030. There were 28,375 in January last year and just over 37,000 at the start of this year, meaning that at the current rate of installation 106,000 would be in place by the target date.

Quentin Willson, founder of the EV campaign group FairCharge, said: "When you look at how quickly Tesla put their Superchargers into the motorway service network, you're forced to wonder why the government is working at such glacial speed to do the same. We simply must pick up the pace."

Culture secretary vows to protect 'vital' free press

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

A free press plays a vital role in protecting democracy, the culture secretary said as she cited the case of Evan Gershkovich, the Wall Street Journal reporter arrested in Moscow more than seven weeks ago.

Lucy Frazer underlined the government's commitment to repealing a law that would force publishers to pay the costs of people who sue them even if they win. It has not been brought into force but remains on the statute book.

She told a media conference organised by Deloitte and Enders Analysis: "The New York Times chairman told Unesco this month that 'all over the world independent journalists and press freedoms are under attack' and he was right. You only need to look at the Russian arrest of a Wall Street Journal journalist to see that. [The media] plays a vital role in protecting both our democracy and our freedoms. We often talk about freedom of the press but the reality is that it's the media who are helping protect the freedom of others."

Frazer, who is Jewish, said: "I appreciate what it means to live in a free society and how dangerous it is when those freedoms are threatened. I know that the challenges to free, fair and truthful reporting are coming from so many quarters from the potential misuse of AI to mis and disinformation. With measures like the protection of public service broadcasters and prominence in the draft media bill and our commitment to the repeal of Section 40 or the protection of journalists in the Online Safety Bill, we are actively guarding your ability to uphold the rights of others.

"If we want a thriving media sector in the future our focus has to be on a free press and a press that is free to grow."

MARK PASSMORE/APEX



Lab assistant Detection dogs, such as eight-year-old labrador Sid, are being used to sniff out invasive crayfish in Devon's rivers. American signal crayfish, above, can devastate local wildlife, eating a wide range of invertebrates and small fish. They also carry a disease that destroys the native white-clawed crayfish population

Baby boomers rapidly losing their religion

Kaya Burgess
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Baby boomers are losing their religion faster than any other generation, with the proportion who believe in God dipping below 50 per cent for the first time.

Faith in God has fallen from 75 per cent in 1981 to 49 per cent in 2022, making the UK one of the least religious countries out of 24 analysed.

When the figures are broken down into five generations — those born before the Second World War, baby boomers born between 1946 and 1964, generation X, millennials and generation Z — only the latter, those born after 1997, are less likely to believe in life after death, heaven, and hell than baby boomers.

Bobby Duffy, director of the policy institute at King's College London, said that baby boomers were entering "later stages of life [where] you start to think more seriously about where you are" on questions of spirituality and mortality.

Fifth water boss waives bonus as calls grow for rest to follow suit

Clean it up
WATER CAMPAIGN

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

Southern Water's chief executive has become the fifth leader of a water company to give up their bonus over shortcomings on sewage pollution.

The move by Lawrence Gosden is a victory for the Times Clean It Up campaign and means that half of the sector's leaders in England have waived bonuses. The Liberal Democrats have called on the rest to follow suit.

Water companies apologised yesterday for raw sewage being dumped into rivers and seas and promised to invest £10 billion by 2030 to tackle spills. Campaigners want them to meet the costs by cutting profits and dividends rather than excessively raising bills.

Gosden, who took charge of Southern Water last summer, said: "In my first year as CEO, I will not be taking any bonus because we have clearly not met the wider expectations of our customers." His predecessor, Ian McAulay, received a bonus of £550,900.

"Our board is sensitive to customer concerns on remuneration and has developed pay and bonus policies that reflect our environmental and customer service performance," Gosden said.

Southern Water spilt sewage from storm overflows almost 17,000 times last year and in 2019 the firm was fined a record £90 million for pollution.

Jim Murray, founder of Activist Anglers, said Gosden should focus his attention on fixing infrastructure, to prevent pollution of the River Test, a globally important chalk stream habitat. "Whilst to some the CEO of my water provider forgoing a six-figure bonus may seem admirable, 'horse' and 'bolted' spring to mind," Murray said.

Gosden follows the heads of Welsh Water, Yorkshire Water, Thames Water and South West Water in forgoing his bonus. Tim Farron, the Lib Dem environment spokesman, said: "It's a kick in the teeth that customers are being asked to pay more in bills to clean up the companies' mess, while CEOs pocket massive bonuses."

Water companies paid £1.4 billion in dividends last year, according to the Financial Times. Ruth Kelly, chairwoman of Water UK, said that profits were small compared with other sectors. She told Times Radio that three firms lost money. "Across England and Wales water and sewage companies made less than 4 per cent return on their capital. That's only a little bit more than you'd make on a bank account," she said.

The government expects tackling sewage spills to add £12 to the average bill between 2025 and 2030. Analysts at Barclays have said it could be £30. The Consumer Council for Water, a watchdog, said one in five households were struggling to afford their water bills.

Sewage apology, letters, page 28

Who has — and hasn't — passed up their bonus

SOUTH WEST WATER (PENNON)

Susan Davy
Pay £1.6 million
Bonus £522,000
Spills 37,649
Chief executive since 2020, Davy has blamed "population growth, tourism and lockdowns" for South West Water's poor record on sewage spills, but says pollution levels are lower than a decade ago. In her own words: "The [environmental performance] rating for South West Water will be one star for 2021 … it is deeply disappointing."

SOUTHERN WATER

Lawrence Gosden
Pay Unpublished
Spills 16,688
Gosden was appointed last July to lead Southern Water, which was fined a record £90 million for pollution in 2021. His predecessor, Ian McAulay, was paid £1.4 million a year.

THAMES WATER

Sarah Bentley
Pay £2 million
Bonus £496,000
Spills 8,014
Bentley has led the UK's biggest water company since 2020, when she joined it from Severn Trent. The company recently published a live map showing sewage spills. In her own words: "Like many of you, I care passionately about the health of rivers."

YORKSHIRE WATER

Nicola Shaw
Pay £574,000 (base salary only)
Bonus £679,000 (what predecessor Liz Barber took)
Spills 54,273
A former executive officer at National Grid, Shaw became head of Yorkshire Water this month.

WELSH WATER DWR CYMRU

Peter Perry
Pay £564,000
Bonus £232,000
Spills 2,800 [in England]
Welsh Water provides wastewater services to a small number of households in England. Perry, the boss of the "not-for-shareholder" firm, this month chose not to receive his bonus, which was worth £232,000 the year before. In his own words: "I recognise the current strength of public feeling about river water quality."

Who hasn't given up their bonus?

ANGLIAN WATER

Peter Simpson
Pay £1.3 million
Number of storm overflow spills (2022) 16,082
Simpson has been chief executive since 2013 and is co-chairman of the Prince of Wales's corporate green leaders group at Cambridge University. In his own words: "While implementing bans should always be a last resort, we also believe the time has come to enforce a complete ban on the sale of wet wipes that do not adhere to Fine to Flush standards."

NORTHUMBRIAN WATER

Heidi Mottram
Pay £648,000
Spills 29,697
Chief executive since 2010. In her own words: "Northumbrian Water has always been an incredibly environmentally conscious business."

SEVERN TRENT WATER

Liv Garfield
Pay £3.9 million
Spills 44,765
The water industry's best-paid chief executive, Garfield is thought by some politicians to have one of the sector's more progressive approaches to water pollution. In her own words: "We spend our money on the activities that customers desire . . . Even two years ago, it [water pollution] wasn't on the priority list."

UNITED UTILITIES

Louise Beardmore
Pay Unpublished
Spills 69,245
Beardmore was appointed in March. As head of the company with the greatest number of storm overflow spills, she faces a big challenge.

WESSEX WATER

Colin Skellett
Pay £975,000
Spills 21,878
An industry veteran who grew up on a council estate, Skellett has led Wessex Water since privatisation in 1989. In his own words: "[I welcome the] spotlight now being thrown on river water quality."

Households to foot bill for firms' £10bn clean-up vow

Adam Vaughan, Steven Swinford

Campaigners have attacked water companies after they admitted that their £10 billion pledge to stop sewage spills into rivers and seas would add to consumer bills.

The industry has apologised for pumping sewage into rivers and promised the greatest infrastructure modernisation since the Victorian era.

It is a victory for The Times Clean It Up campaign but Feargal Sharkey, a prominent campaigner, said it was "nothing to celebrate".

Sharkey told BBC Radio 4's *Today*: "What's missing is the apology for the £72 billion of our money that they have taken out of these companies and paid to shareholders; the £1.4 billion in dividends they paid themselves last year; the environmental damage they have caused; an apology for their corporate greed, profiteering and neglect. We should have an apology for the suggestion that they put bills up by £10 billion for their incompetence, their greed."

Activists said the better monitoring and regulation of water quality was needed. Kate Norgrove, WWF executive director of advocacy and campaigns, said: "Today's apology from Water UK only scratches the surface of the action needed to clean up our water. UK nature is in crisis and sewage and agricultural pollution are choking the life out of our rivers and seas."

The Green Party said it had not changed its view on the need for the sector to be renationalised: "Suggesting that the public has to pay for any improvements, after £57bn has been paid out in payouts to shareholders over the last 30 years, just adds insult to injury."

Protests against sewage spills are planned across England for tomorrow, with the main one in Brighton. "The public are sick and tired of greed taking precedence over the health of our ocean," said Izzy Ross, campaigns manager at Surfers Against Sewage.

TMS

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Netflix show finds new fans

James Cleverly has enjoyed *The Diplomat*, a Netflix series about an American ambassador to London, but it uses a lot of creative licence. The foreign secretary says that, unlike in the show, no ambassador can get to his office without an appointment or someone to take notes, and that the Durbar Court is the worst place for an ambassador and foreign secretary to have a private chat. "It's very echoey," he says. "You can't hear each other because of the acoustics and [if you speak up] everyone else can hear you." Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state, has also watched it. "He told me he found it amusing that the ambassador was chosen by the president and a day later was in London with no congressional oversight," says Cleverly, above. But not everything is made up. "The foreign secretary is a good-looking fella," he says. "So that's spot on."



John Howell, MP for Henley, denies rumours that he is standing down at the next election so that Boris Johnson can fight an easier seat than Uxbridge. "I do not do deals with Boris Johnson," Howell said, perhaps aware that such things often need to be renegotiated. "Over my dead body." Let's hope that remains an idiom.

RATTLING TINS FOR UKRAINE
Napoleon may not have said that an army marches on its stomach but it is a sentiment followed by a French pig-keeper. While Britain rustles up some cruise missiles for Ukraine, Stéphane Audrand has raised enough donations to send its sailors 15,000 boxes of pâté from Hénaff, a Breton company that has served the French navy since 1920. "It's a security blanket," Audrand tells Le Figaro. It may be more useful to send pâté to the Russians, with some claret, and attack while they're sleeping it off.

FORD NO LONGER MOTORING
The designer Tom Ford wants to let himself go after a 35-year career in the fashion industry. In his first interview since selling his luxury brand to Estée Lauder, Ford tells Air Mail that he just wants to sit around the house in his underwear and a dirty T-shirt, eating cereal and watching TV. "I might not take a bath for three or four days," he says. "Whether that's because I'm with a 10-year-old [son] all the time or just need a break, I don't know."

The University of Oxford, which has become a pleasure-free zone lately, drew sighs from alumni yesterday by tweeting its advice that people should stick to seven units of alcohol a week. "This will go down badly on High Table," one fellow told me. "The prospect of speaking to one's peers at dinner while sober is horrific."

BEING SLUGGISH CAN BE SEXY
While Channel 4 gets people to flaunt their bits in *Naked Attraction*, the BBC has its own filth: Sir David Attenborough's *Wild Isles*. Before showing a clip of slugs mating at the Deloitte media conference, Tim Davie, the director-general, said he would cut it short as it was before the watershed. "It does get pretty steamy," he said. "I got an email expressing outrage at explicit sex on our airwaves." Others were less coy. "Strangely erotic" was the response from another viewer, who may not get out much.

PATRICK KIDD

Going forward: Dent takes clichés to task

Lucy Bannerman, Seren Hughes

They are the lexical equivalent of fingernails down a blackboard.

Instead of blackboards these days, however, we have an unending stream of emails, driving people to distraction with their maddening, meaningless invitations to "lean in" and "circle back" while everyone is "going forward".

When Susie Dent, the lexicographer and *Countdown* star, asked her more than one million followers on Twitter which phrases or expressions they would like to see banished from the dictionary, many of the responses were all too familiar.

Within five hours she presented "an unscientific analysis". Among them were many clichés from the working world, as well as fillers, overused terms of disagreement and commonplace grammatical errors.

The top phrase people wanted to ban was "going forward", closely followed by "No disrespect, but" and "like" as a filler. "You are always going forward," wrote one frustrated respondent.

Other phrases in Dent's list were those used in corporate jargon such as "I wanted to reach out", "Let's go offline" and considering the "optics" of something. Other fillers including "basically" and "so" also made the list.

Dent, who has led Dictionary Corner on the Channel 4 show for more than 30 years, made her own suggestions, including, "it is what it is" and "aw bless".

Among the thousands of contributors were Hugh Bonneville, the *Downton Abbey* actor, who offered "at this point" and Les Dennis, the presenter and actor, who suggested "for my sins" and "I'm not gonna lie".

It seems the public is most irritated with phrases they hear in the workplace or read on email.

Frequent suggestions included "lessons learnt", "we are delivering" and "gentle reminder".

Respondents also complained that the adjective "iconic" seemed increasingly to mean "something remembered on TV last night". They were exasperated by the use of the word "journey" to describe anything other than travelling a physical distance.

Dent added: "Happily, English is a democracy so it's up to us. And many of these are old beefs: 'like' as a filler was first used in 1778."

Jonathon Green, a lexicographer who specialises in the history of slang, said many of the least popular phrases were ones that offered pointless or euphemistic embellishments, which suggested insincerity. He said: "I would personally hang anyone, including my own best friends, who use 'reaching out'. What is wrong with 'get in touch'?"

Green confessed to having overused "with all due respect". He added: "Everyone knows perfectly well, it means with no respect at all."

Iconic girly swot reaches out, leading article, page 29





RUSSELL SACH

Solid prospect Hallfield Plato, a four-year-old British Blonde bull, being prepared for the champion breed contest at the Royal Devon County Show in Exeter yesterday

Biggest rise in school fees since crash

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

Private school fees have recorded the biggest increase since the financial crash, a survey has revealed.

It shows prices increased by 5.6 per cent on average this year, the highest since 2009 when they were up 5.9 per cent on the year before.

Many independent schools froze their fees during the pandemic. The Independent School Council 2023 census said the rises were similar to government levels of wage inflation.

The average day school fee is £16,656, an increase of 37 per cent from the £12,153 average in 2013, while the average boarding fee is £39,000, 41 per cent higher than the £27,600 average ten years ago.

The census said record amounts were being spent on bursaries — more than £1 billion from schools themselves — and that private schools were helping more than 2,000 Ukrainian pupils.

However, only half of the fee assistance is means tested; 9,620 of 554,000 pupils paid no fees at all, an increase of 23 per cent from last year.

The number of single-sex schools has fallen: 159 girls' schools and 106 boys' schools do not take children of the opposite sex above nursery age, down from 160 and 110 a year earlier.

Babies muck in to make a nappy home

Tom Whipple Science Editor

The world has an affordable housing problem and a nappy disposal problem. It takes a certain sort of mind to see that one could be the solution to the other. But that is the suggestion from a team in Japan, who have not only calculated the theoretical benefits of houses made out of nappies, but have built one too.

They showed that as much as 8 percent of the sand used in concrete and mortar could be replaced with shredded, used nappies, without significantly affecting the strength — or aroma — of the finished house.

This meant that in the small $36m^2$ demonstration house they built, the walls could lock away 1.7 cubic metres of nappy. That is enough to store more than 4,000 nappies, taking all but the most prolific babies through from birth to potty training.

Recycling nappies is a formidable task. To deal with them effectively requires crushing, sanitising and sorting the components, which are an interwoven mesh of natural and plastic fibres.

In practice most nappies go unrecycled. According to a report by the Environment Agency, about 400,000 tonnes of nappies are disposed of in the UK each year, with most going to landfill.

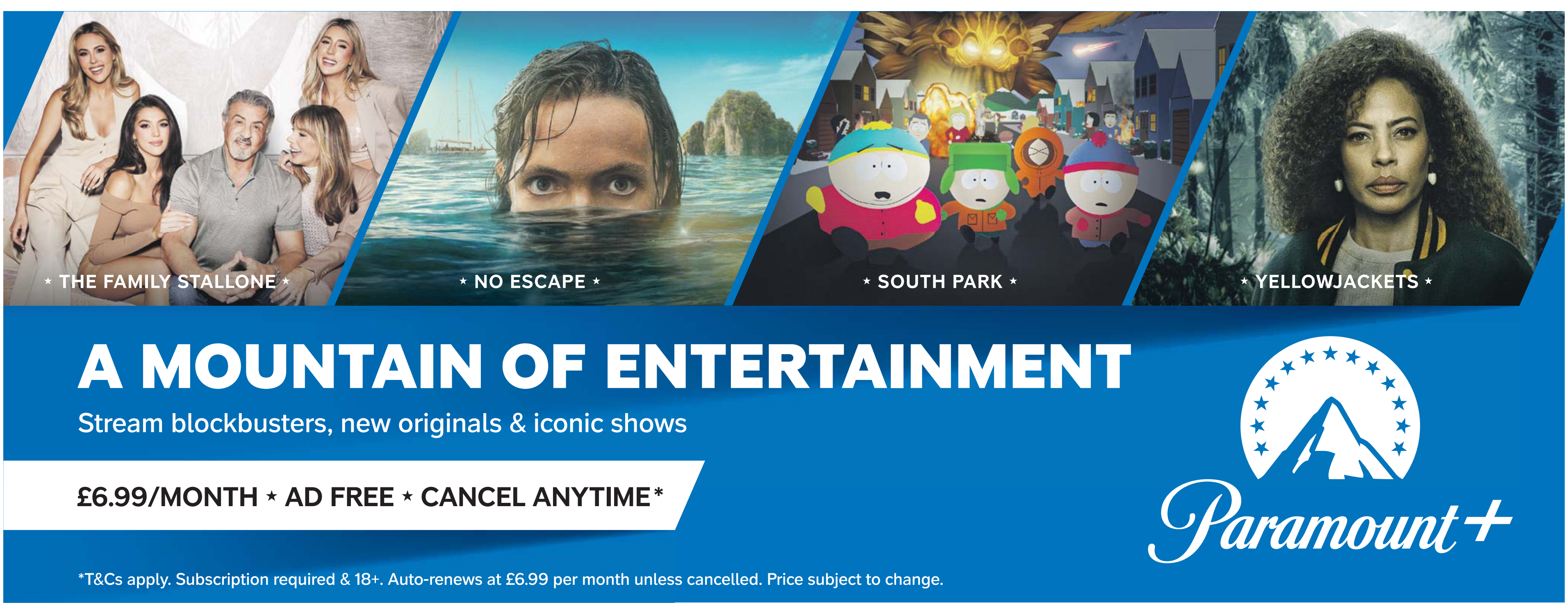
The latest research, published in the journal Scientific Reports, is not the first to look into applying used nappies in more imaginative ways.

Laboratory studies have found that in the right composition "the mechanical and microbial content of disposable diaper concrete . . . are identical to conventional concrete", the researchers write. Indeed, some work has shown that a 1 per cent mix of "super-absorbent polymer", a euphemistic term for shredded nappies, actively improves the concrete's structural properties. Crucially, this work has established that there is little difference between clean and used nappies, which can be sanitised with sodium chloride.

This inspired the team to move from theory to practice. They decided to try out nappy construction in Indonesia, which has an estimated demand for 780,000 more houses a year, and a capacity to build only 400,000 to 500,000. It is, they write, a prime example of a country where "there is a need for policies that would broaden people's access to building materials that are both appropriate and economical".

In a country that also has 22 million children under five, few materials are more appropriate and economical than nappies. The researchers' goal was to show that at each stage in construction the substitution of shredded nappies for sand still met the strength requirements.

The amount of nappy they could put in, they found, depended very much on where it was being used. For anything up to 5 per cent substitution, there was minimal effect on strength. After that, it began to affect the structural properties of the concrete. For columns and beams, they calculated that they could get away with replacing 10 per cent of the sand and still being able to build a three-storey house, which increased to 27 per cent for a single-storey house. For non-structural use, up to 40 per cent of the sand could be replaced with nappy.



Facebook boasts cost Oxfordshire ‘traveller’ his Cornish getaway

Will Humphries
Southwest Correspondent

A fabricator from Oxfordshire has been denied retrospective planning permission as a “traveller” for a home in Cornwall, after boasting online about building a new holiday home.

Jack Lindsay built a home out of a shipping container for land he had bought in Threemilestone, a village near Truro. He applied for retrospective planning permission on the grounds that he needed it for accommodation as “a traveller and rural worker” on the land.

But a suspicious planning officer found Facebook posts from August 2020 showing the home, which he had built at his business in Abingdon and then taken to Cornwall.

Lindsay wrote on Facebook: “During lockdown [we] decided to build ourselves a new mini holiday home, it took five months of blood sweat and tears.” He posted an image of “our new summerhouse” on the page of his business, Etso Fabrication, in September 2020.

Cornwall council’s planning department said it was “not assured that the applicant meets the definition of a traveller” and the dwelling “fails to conserve or enhance the intrinsic landscape character”.

When questioned by the council’s land agent, Lindsay’s planning agent clarified that he was “not an agricultural worker and there is no agricultural trade or business occurring on the site”.

Dulcie Tudor, a local councillor, said on Facebook: “If you’re applying for retrospective planning permission for an existing cabin/home in my patch on the grounds you’re a traveller and rural worker and need somewhere to live, it’s not a good idea to boast from Oxfordshire about your new ‘holiday home’ near Truro on Facebook. REFUSED . . . doofus!”


Jack Lindsay was denied retrospective permission for his shipping container

Lindsay insisted that he had not had a fixed abode for about 15 years. “So in planning terms I am a traveller.”

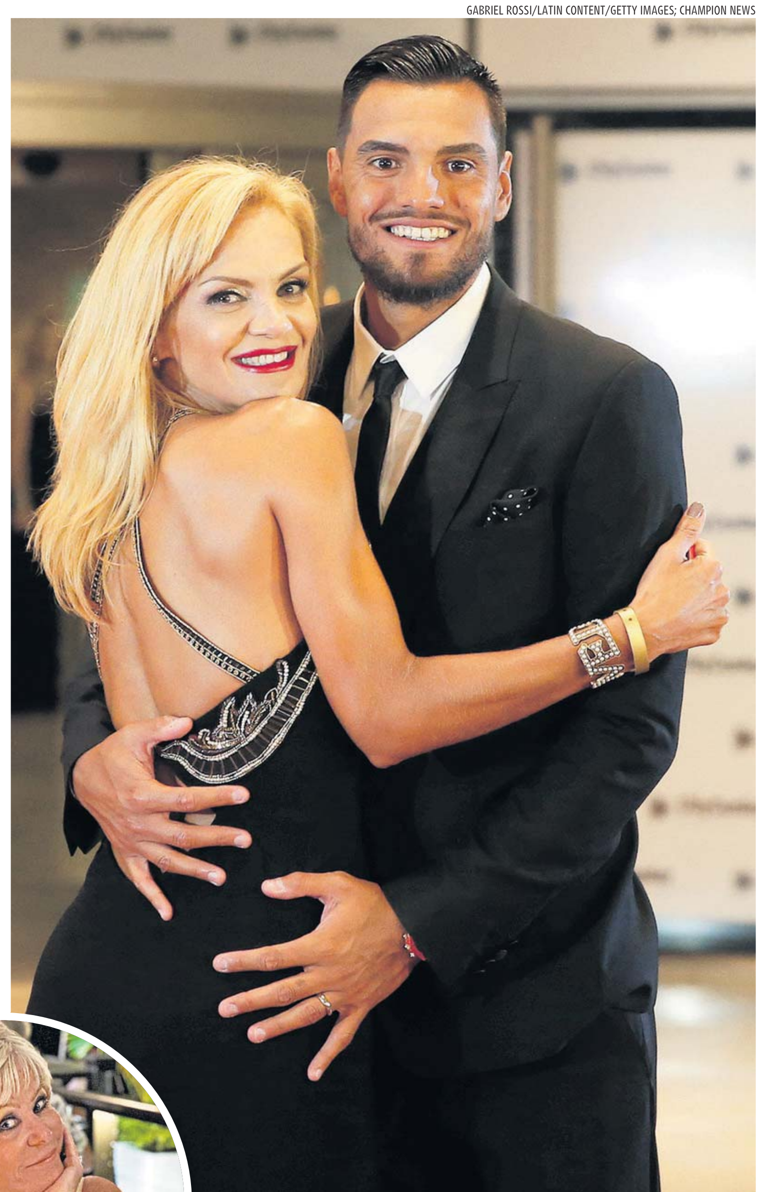
The Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site objected to the application. Kenwyn parish council had supported it.



Late save for top goalkeeper in £1m garden flood battle

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

GABRIEL ROSSI/LATIN CONTENT/GETTY IMAGES; CHAMPION NEWS





Manchester United’s Sergio Romero and his wife, Eliana Guercio, lived in a house built by Baljit Sihan, below. Works caused flooding of Georgina Partakis-Stevens’s garden



Over six seasons as a second-string goalkeeper at Manchester United, Sergio Romero faced down the Premier League’s best strikers.

However, the Argentinian met his match last December in the form of a neighbouring couple in Cheshire’s “footballer belt” when a judge ordered Romero to carry out drainage works to stop flooding at their property.

The battle has now taken another twist, with the original property developer being hit with £1 million in costs.

The dispute started in 2018, three years after Romero moved to United on a free transfer from the Italian club Sampdoria. That was when Baljit Sihan, 53, and his wife, Lesley, demolished their home in Wilmslow and built a £2.8 million three-level mansion, which they sold to the goalkeeper and his wife, Eliana Guercio, an Argentine actress.

Landscaping works that the Sihans had commissioned to raise and level the back lawn caused flooding in the next-door garden of Georgina Partakis-Stevens, 73, and Laurence Stevens, both retired business people.

In a claim that went to the High Court, Partakis-Stevens, 73, who was described as “strong willed” and “houseproud”, sued the developer and the 36-year-old footballer after the garden of the retired couple’s £1.85 million home was inundated with “serious and sustained waterlogging”.

Judge Stephen Davies ruled in favour of Partakis-Stevens and her husband. In addition to ordering Romero to fix the drains, he ordered the Sihans to pay nearly £60,000 in damages.

But in a new ruling, the Sihans were landed with a bill of more than £1 million that includes covering the Romeros’ legal bills and the cost of installing new drains.

Davies found that the flooding was ultimately the Sihans’ fault and that Baljit Sihan, who was described in court as “hard-nosed”, had misled the Romeros about the nature of the row with the Stevenses before the Argentinian couple bought the house.

It emerged in court that Sihan, who had lived at the property with his wife, used clay spoil to raise the level at the back and create a “flat-lawned rear garden” as part of the process of developing the house into a mansion. The Sihans had bought the house in 2013 “with the intention of constructing a much larger house on the site”.

The Stevenses moved into their own “substantial” detached 1930s house in 1990 and have lived there ever since.

“They are a houseproud couple and Mrs Partakis-Stevens, in particular, is very attached to and proud of the rear garden,” the judge said.

The judge described Baljit Sihan as “the epitome of a successful and hard-nosed property developer” who was “determined to achieve his objective in developing … a new large detached house to his specification, including a flat-lawned rear garden”.

Davies added that Sihan considered Partakis-Stevens to be “an interfering nuisance of a neighbour”.

In his ruling, the judge noted that the planning permission granted to the Sihans required them to have any landscaping or changes in the garden level approved to “ensure that any change in ground level is acceptable, given the nature of the site and adjoining uses”.

However, the plan they submitted to the local council “did not show any alteration to the rear garden levels”.

The judge ordered that the Sihans were liable for the vast majority of both the Stevenses’ and the Romeros’ costs.

They were ordered to pay £411,000 up front to the Romeros, on account of their estimated £534,000 costs bill, and £275,000 to the Stevens.

They also have to pay the Stevenses £59,500 in damages and fund the cost of about £70,000 worth of work at the two properties to remedy the flooding.

With interest added and their own substantial lawyers’ bills to pay, the total cost of the case for the Sihans will run well beyond £1 million.

PC ‘handed drugs back to users for information’

Will Humphries

A police officer has been accused of gross misconduct after allegedly seizing and then returning class-A drugs to users in exchange for information that led to the arrest of their dealers.

PC Jonathan Biggins, who was involved in a long-running operation to tackle drugs in Weston-super-Mare, on the north Somerset coast, is also accused of falsifying records. Biggins, who has since resigned from Avon and Somerset police, denies the allegations.

A misconduct hearing at the force’s headquarters in Portishead was told Biggins was in plain clothes when he allegedly seized class-A drugs during three separate stop-and-searches in 2020, gave back the drugs in exchange for information that led to the arrests of the suspected dealers.

George Thomas, representing the police force, said Biggins turned off his body-worn camera at crucial moments. On each occasion, video showed that each user “quickly and calmly volunteered specific, helpful evidence about those supplying the drugs to them”.

Thomas said it was “remarkable” that they would be “prepared to disrupt their own access to drugs by telling a police officer where they got drugs from”. He argued: “There would be no incentive for them to do so.”

Thomas said the likely explanation for their “remarkable” declarations and for them identifying dealers was down to the “immediate benefit” of having access to drugs. He said that while the three users were not deemed reliable witnesses, their statements were corroborated by other accounts.

Thomas said that during the first incident, on April 29, 2020, Biggins stopped a man who had bought three wraps of crack cocaine for £20. He said Biggins seized one wrap but left the other two on the ground in exchange for the dealer’s name and phone number. He said the officer falsely wrote in his notebook that he had found a single wrap and assumed the user had “dropped or swallowed” the other two.

The barrister said this was implausible as Biggins made no attempt to search the area despite it being daytime. The second incident, on May 26, 2020, followed a similar pattern.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct launched an investigation in September 2020 after Biggins’ colleagues reported him. He is alleged to have breached the standards of professional behaviour for police officers in terms of honesty and integrity, discreditable conduct, authority, respect and courtesy, duties and responsibilities, and orders and instructions.

The hearing continues.

~~NEVER~~ REWARD DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOUR.

Channel 4 shows won 9 BAFTAs on Sunday night, our most in 22 years. Which is nice.
But even nicer is that we won them for shows that do things differently.
Shows that stick it to the powerful – whether that's taking on the Kremlin, Kabul,
or David Beckham in his own home.
Shows that shine a light on teenage mental health, trans bodies – and a sweary nun from Derry.
Shows that no other broadcaster or streamer would dare to air.
It's what Channel 4 is here to do, and what gets us out of bed in the morning
(even if we had to hit the snooze button a couple of times on Monday).

Gay romance smoulders but fails to catch fire

Theatre Clive Davis

Brokeback Mountain
Sohoplace, W1
★★★☆☆

Here comes another play riding on the coat-tails of a successful film. Should we be worried that these cross-genre branding exercises risk stifling creativity in the West End?

Well, you can understand why, especially in these uncertain times, producers want to tap into an existing audience. But in the case of this remake of the gay romance in the wilds of Wyoming, which started life as a short story by Annie Proulx before being turned into a film by Ang Lee, the results are mixed. There's atmosphere a-plenty in Jonathan Butterell's production, a country band providing music from one corner of the in-the-round space. But Lee's film, scripted by the great Texan novelist Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana, added sinews and strength to Proulx's bare-bones prose. I'm not sure this new version brings as much to the table.

There are certainly some positives.

MANUEL HARLAN



Mike Faist, left, is convincing as Jack Twist, while Lucas Hedges wins sympathy as his ultra-laconic lover, Ennis Del Mar

Mike Faist, who made such a strong impression in Steven Spielberg's remake of *West Side Story*, is convincing as the shepherd Jack Twist. Lucas Hedges wins sympathy as ultra-laconic lover, Ennis Del Mar.

What's more of a problem is the adaptation by Ashley Robinson, which takes the form of a memory play with music. That means that the slender storyline is punctuated by fragments of tasteful but generic numbers composed by Dan Gillespie Seals and soulfully delivered by that fine Scottish singer Eddie Reader, cast here as the Balladeer (she also plays Jack's mother in a brief scene towards the end). The tunes may have been conceived as a way of taking us inside the minds of the taciturn lovers, but in the end they leave us wanting more. Meanwhile, Paul Hickey, as the older, grizzled Ennis prowls, seldom speaking as he watches his younger self stumble into a love affair that leaves his wife Alma (confidently played by Emily Fairn in her West End debut) as a pained onlooker.

What about the sex scenes, I hear you asking? They're more muted than in the film. There's a good deal of kissing, groping and a hint of nudity, including when Faist washes his nether regions with a cloth. But Butterell wisely confines the crucial first bout of love-making to a discreet fumbling in a tiny, lighted tent.

Martin Marquez does a fine, understated job in his multi-tasking supporting roles. Tom Pye's set gives us the barest hint of domestic comforts in the form of a cheap table and a grease-stained gas cooker. A camp fire burns at one side too. It's just a pity that the production as a whole smoulders fitfully.

To August 12, sohoplace.org

Ukraine orchestra must travel to Poland to collect UK tour visas

Constance Kampfner

A Ukrainian orchestra due to tour the UK has been told that its 90 members must travel through the war-torn country to Poland to collect their visas because there are insufficient staff at the British embassy.

The National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine is due to perform across 17 British venues this autumn, but said it had been unable to secure travel permits for its members, despite raising the issue with the Home Office in October last year.

The tour's UK organisers said they had been told the orchestra could apply for their work visas in Kyiv but would need to go to Warsaw to pick them up, a 12-hour bus journey they described as "virtually impossible and dangerous".

It comes days after Britain hosted the Eurovision Song Contest on behalf of Ukraine. Lucy Frazer, the culture secretary, said last week that the government "has been proud to lead global support for Ukrainian culture, sports and arts since the invasion".

She also claimed in an article on the government's website that it would be "assisting the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine to share their music as they tour the UK this year".

However, Mary Harrison, the head of UK touring for the promoter IMG Artists, said the orchestra had only received "nonsensical and contradictory" information since approaching the Home Office and the department for culture, media and sport (DCMS).

Harrison said the group had been advised that it needed to apply for visas well in advance of the tour, which begins on October 17, but was then told that members must apply three months before and would have to collect their visas in Poland.

She said: "We want to ensure that the full orchestra gets here. Because of the war in Ukraine and security risks, we've been advised that there are insufficient staff at the embassy in Ukraine to process these visas, so they have to travel to Warsaw.

"It is virtually impossible and dangerous to offer that as a solution to a group of 90 people living in Kyiv. The whole thing seems crazy to me."

Harrison wants ministers to waive the need for the group to obtain visas for the tour, as it did for some players of the Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra who played in Britain last summer. She said that IMG was "keen to work with the UK government to find a solution and our request is for the tour to be treated as an exceptional circumstance".

Barbara Keeley, the shadow minister for arts and civil society, said the culture secretary should not "make claims of assisting the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine to tour the UK when they appear to have had no contact whatsoever" and called on the government website article to be corrected.

Keeley said that tour managers had raised concerns with her about "the heavy administrative and logistical burden of applying for UK visas" from Ukraine and their "prohibitive costs".

Last month several members of the Khmelnitsky Orchestra missed playing in a series of concerts in the UK over visa delays that the promoter claimed cost it more than €100,000. The Ukrainian state group was due to tour the UK playing music from the Harry Potter films and *The Lord of the Rings*, shows that had been advertised on the UK government website as an example of British-Ukrainian relations. The promoter, Star Entertainment, accused the government of hypocrisy.

The Home Office and DCMS have been contacted for comment.

Richard Morrison, page 6, Times2

Earliest book of cheese sells for big wedge

Will Humphries

It may appear crackers, but an international bidding war saw the earliest known book about cheese-making in Britain sell at auction for £54,000 — 36 times its estimated value.

The 443-year-old manuscript is a study of the different types in England and the manufacturing processes.

According to the book, cheeses made in Cheshire, Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire were highly recommended but Essex cheese was "not so good".

Published in 1580, the Tudor manuscript, *A Pamflyt Compiled of Cheese*, also extols the medical benefits of cheese.

Written and signed by Walter Bayley, professor of physic at Oxford and Queen Elizabeth's physician, it had a pre-sale estimate of £1,500, but a bidding war ensued between UK and US collectors. With fees, the undisclosed British buyer handed over £54,000.

Chris Albury, specialist at auctioneers Dominic Winter, of Cirencester, Gloucestershire, said: "It seemed it would sell for about £25,000 but then two of the phone bidders stepped in and fought it out to this incredible price."

The seller, a 70-year-old man who did not wish to be named, discovered the manuscript in his family library as a teenager and transcribed it into modern English.



A Pamflyt Compiled of Cheese, by Walter Bayley of Oxford

Strikes over pay may close London tourist attractions

Emma Yeomans

London tourist attractions including Tower Bridge and the Barbican could be forced to close after workers voted to go on strike this month.

The GMB union said 900 members employed at attractions by the City of London Corporation would walk out on May 25 after voting overwhelmingly in favour of industrial action over pay.

Anna Lee, GMB London region organiser, said it showed how the cost of living crisis was having a "devastating" impact on staff and their families. She said: "This 'them and us' culture in the Corporation of London has to end.

"It is not OK for workers to be using food banks while corporation bosses spend thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money on hospitality — while telling staff there's no money for pay.

"Our members do not take this action lightly, but our demands for fair pay have been falling on deaf ears."

The City of London Corporation, the municipal governing body of the City of London, is responsible for many central London sites and attractions. It is not clear what percentage of staff in the corporation are part of the union, but the walkout could be enough to close some attractions down.

In January, the Kilburn Times reported that staff working in Hampstead Heath, the north London park run by the City of London Corporation, were having to resort to food banks.

The City of London Corporation said: "Our 2022-23 pay award gave all full-time employees at least £2,300 extra. In our view, it addressed the challenges staff face in the fairest way possible, while ensuring we met our statutory duty to deliver a balanced budget … our one-off winter payment of £1,000 provided in October gave real, practical support to all our staff.

"Through talks with the unions and Acas, we sought to find a solution acceptable to all, and we regret that this was not possible."





ANDREW PARSONS/PARSONS MEDIA; ARTHUR EDWARDS

The Princess of Wales visited the Anna Freud Centre and spoke to pupils from St Richard's Catholic College, top, about anxiety

Kate's warning over mental health labels

The Princess of Wales has said that children should not "over-medicalise" their emotions (Shayma Bakht writes).

The princess visited the Anna Freud Centre mental health charity yesterday to meet the schoolchildren who helped the research and development organisation create an "anxiety toolkit" for teachers and an animation designed to destigmatise the illness.

The princess, 41, who is a long-term mental health campaigner, said that "making sure our emotions aren't over-medicalised" was important, particularly with children who she said were likely to "latch on to labels of any sort".

She used activity cards from the toolkit, which represent emotions, while talking to pupils from St Richard's Catholic College, in East Sussex, about anxiety.

"In the caveman ages our worlds were quite small so we were able to deal with that fight or flight response," she said.

The princess is a patron of the centre, which is a London charity that uses research and training to help young people improve their wellbeing.

The visit was one of several engagements as part of Mental Health Awareness Week.

While sitting down with the pupils, who were from years 7 to 9, the princess asked questions such as "Do you think lots of young people have got the skills that you have got?" and "How many adults do you know who have these skills?"

In response to one girl, who said she was going for trials at a football club, the princess added: "So much in sport is mental as well as the physical skills and abilities.

"To have these sorts of skills in your toolbox will really help, not just in school but home life and school and other things as well.

"The more you learn, the more you read, the more interesting a perspective you get."

On a brief walkabout later, the princess met a group of children and their parents and said: "I'm leaving feeling inspired — I've learned lots from young people."

Once married, twice shy … as more men are living solo life

James Beal Social Affairs Editor

The proportion of men living alone over the past decade grew at double the speed of women, figures have revealed.

Women still make up the majority of the 8.3 million people registered as living alone in the UK, at 4.4 million or 5.3 per cent, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said.

But the number of men living alone has grown by 0.4 million since 2012, compared with 0.2 million for women.

A total of 3.9 million men now live alone, while the ages of both sexes in single person households has been increasing over time.

Since 2020, half of those living alone have been 65 and over. Almost a decade earlier in 2012, just 45 per cent of those living alone were in that age group.

Legal experts suggested that the figures could be partly due to a reluctance on the part of some men who had been married before to see another marriage end in failure.

James Brown, from Hall Brown Family Law, said: "I have handled the divorces of a number of clients who have gone on to marry a second or even a third time, most of whom have been women.

"Some have remarked on the importance of having financial and emotional security as they grow older.

"Men who might have been the principal breadwinner in a marriage are generally more conscious of the impact of divorce on their finances. They are therefore keen to avoid the prospect of repeating the experience, particularly when they have less time to make up whatever wealth they may have lost.

"Living alone does not necessarily mean that they aren't in a relationship but they don't have the kind of domestic arrangements which might give rise to a claim on their assets in the future."

In 2022, more than one in five men and one in three women living alone were aged 75 or over, the ONS's Labour Force Survey found.

While women account for the majority of those living alone aged over 65, at 64 per cent this proportion has dropped 5 per cent since 2012.

The ONS said this in part reflected the greater increases in male life expectancy seen in recent years, as more men are living alone at an older age.

People living alone are the second most common type of household, accounting for almost one in three UK households in 2022. This is a similar proportion to 2012.

One-person households were estimated to be a greater proportion of all those in Scotland in 2022 than in England or Wales. The North East was the English region with the highest proportion of one-person households.

The majority of the 2.9 million lone-parent families in 2022 were headed by a mother, at 84 per cent, with lone fathers now accounting for 16 per cent, or 457,000. The families headed by mothers were more likely to include one or more dependent children, at 66 per cent, than those with a single father, at 48 per cent.

In 2019, the ONS estimated that nearly one in seven people in the UK could be living alone within several generations. It noted that the number of single-person households was rising sharply, increasing 16 per cent between 1997 and 2017, to 7.7 million. It predicted that 10.7 million could be living alone by 2039.

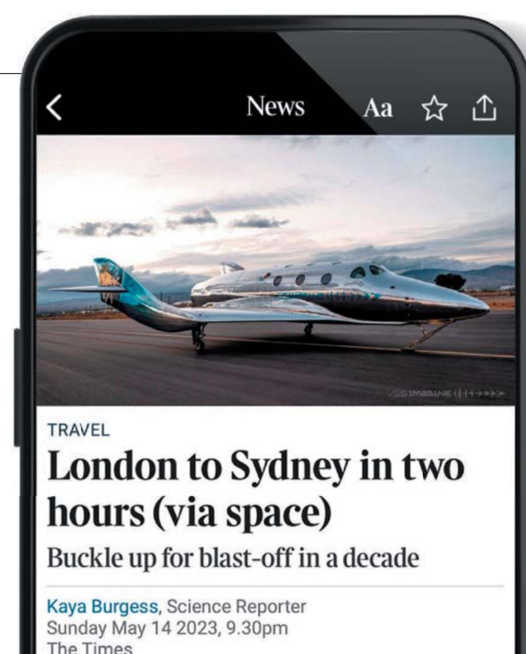
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Doctors out to get me, claims nurse

Tom Ball Northern Correspondent

Lucy Letby has accused a group of doctors of a "conspiracy" to blame her for the death of babies to cover up failings at the hospital where they worked.

During cross-examination yesterday, the nurse named a "gang of four" consultants who she claimed had plotted against her after several deaths on the neonatal ward of the Countess of Chester Hospital between June 2015 and June 2016.

Letby, 33, originally from Hereford, denies murdering seven babies and attempting to murder a further ten.

Asked by Nick Johnson KC, for the prosecution, whether she believed that there was an "agreement" among hospital staff to "get" her, Letby replied: "In the consultants group, I do believe yes."

She named Dr Stephen Brearey, Dr John Gibbs, Dr Ravi Jayaram and another doctor. Johnson asked: "Four doctors. A gang of four, let's call them. What's the conspiracy?"

Letby replied: "They have apportioned blame on to me."

Johnson said: "The motive?" Letby: "I believe to cover failings at the hospital."

The defendant claimed this week that the neonatal unit was so busy it was "potentially dangerous", with staff facing unfamiliar procedures.

Questioned about Brearey, who had in June 2016 demanded that she be removed from the unit, Letby was directed to a note found at her home in which she had described him as "one of the bastards".

Asked why she had written it, Letby responded: "They had been making comments that I was responsible for the death of babies and were insisting that I be removed from the unit."

The jury at Manchester crown court had been told that following the death of Baby P on 24 June 2016, Brearey told a hospital executive that he was "not happy" with Letby continuing to work on the neonatal unit. Letby was moved the next month after another baby, her final alleged victim, collapsed.

Letby also suggested that someone other than her in the unit had poisoned two babies with insulin. When asked whether she believed that someone had



Lucy Letby, 33, denies murdering seven babies and attempting to murder ten others

unlawfully given the insulin to Baby E — whom she is accused of attempting to murder — Letby agreed. She also agreed that Baby L was poisoned with insulin but added: "I don't know how the insulin got there." She did not believe anyone would make a mistake.

Johnson had suggested that she collected documents on the babies, including a blood gas reading of Baby M, whom she is accused of attempting to murder.

The court was told that after her arrest, 257 shift handover sheets, some including the names of babies she allegedly harmed, were found at her home in Chester and her parents' home.

Johnson reminded Letby that a nursing colleague who took the measurement had told the court she would have disposed of the printout in the unit's confidential waste bin. He asked: "When did you fish it out of the bin?"

Letby said: "I never fished anything out of the confidential bin."

Johnson said: "How did you get it?"

Letby said: "I can't recall specifically."

Johnson said: "It was for your little collection, wasn't it, Lucy Letby?"

"No," she replied.

The trial continues.

St Albans' bid to save 250 trees from axe

St Albans is the latest council to be accused of waging a "chainsaw massacre" after residents uncovered a plan to chop down 250 street trees (Debbie White writes).

The council has already started removing trees, citing health and safety factors. In March removal of 110 trees in central Plymouth under the cover of darkness came to national attention. The leader of the council was forced to resign.

St Albans, in Hertfordshire, is a commuter city with Roman ruins, a centuries-old cathedral and expensive period homes. Scores of trees have been branded with a red "X" to mark them for the chop.

Dozens of residents gathered around a marked oak tree last weekend to prevent it from being chopped down, while waving placards reading "St Albans council tree killers" and "Stop: birds nesting here". The protesters say that although some of the trees are dead or seriously diseased, many are not. They argue that a tree should not be removed simply for showing signs of decline.

Shirley Ferrie, a protester, said: "This whole sorry incident has been very badly managed. There was no prior warning or consultation. The first we knew was when signs went up on trees."

Simon Grover, a Green councillor, said the Lib Dem-led council had failed to consult the public. "They literally got chainsaws out and started chopping the trees down," he said.

Fintan Bermingham, a semi-retired arboriculturalist with seven years' experience as a senior tree officer at Barnet council, said: "St Albans council has been very arrogant. I want it to consider others' opinions. A lot of trees which have been removed aren't imminently dangerous. The purple plums which have been removed could have had another ten to 15 years of pruning maintenance."

St Albans district council said that trees were assessed by contractors before being felled to ensure that nesting birds were not disturbed.

"Fifty trees were recommended for removal because they were dead, dying, diseased, had suffered significant damage or were a health and safety risk," a spokesman said.

"Every effort is made to preserve our existing tree stock … trees that are removed will be replaced [in line with the local] tree replacement programme."

MATT FISHER





A red cross has been marked on trees that the district council insists need to be cut down. Residents argue that many of the trees are healthy and do not need to be removed

High-tech facial phone locks undone by low-res photos of owners

Mark Sellman
Technology Correspondent

Mobile phones have a facial lock that can be fooled by a low-resolution printed photo, research has shown.

Handsets made by Samsung, Honor, Motorola, Nokia, Oppo, Vivo and Xiaomi were spoofed by a 2D picture of their owners, in tests commissioned by Which? The consumer group sent 48 smartphones to a lab for testing and of these, 19 had their face lock evaded. The devices, which all use Google's Android operating system, ranged from £89.99 for the Motorola Moto E13 to £949.99 for the Motorola Razr 2022.

The photos were printed on normal paper and were not high resolution.

Apple's iPhones were not breached and are considered to have market-leading facial ID technology, which creates a 3D map of your face.

If a thief were to gain access to the other handsets in this way, they would be able to pay for items up to £45 using Google Wallet, and access personal information. They would not, however, be able to sign in to third party apps or confirm important actions because these require a higher level of biometric security.

Which? is recommending that owners of the models turn off face recognition and use a fingerprint sensor, password or PIN instead. It also suggests setting extra protection on key apps and using a second lock on Google Wallet. Lisa Barber, technology editor of Which?, said: "It's unacceptable that brands are selling phones that can easily be duped using a 2D photo. Our findings have worrying implications for people's security and susceptibility to scams."

Sensity AI, a company that has developed a deepfake detection platform, tested the top ten ID verification systems last year and found that only one in ten was able to detect deepfakes.

Francesco Cavalli, co-founder of the company, called 2D detection "an outdated technology".

He said that manufacturers should switch to a 3D face detection system, but cost was an inhibitor. Most of the phones tested were at the mid or lower range of the market. He added: "Until regulations come in, there isn't much that can be done.

"Users can switch to unlocking phones with fingerprints and the manufacturers should fully disclose the vulnerability during the setup. If the consumer doesn't feel safe, he has always the right to return the phone and get a safer one."

Nokia said it told customers that its affected phone could be unlocked by someone who looked like them and Vivo said it informed its customers that there were more secure technologies.

The other phone manufacturers were approached for comment.

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Build on the green belt — but do it wisely
Emma Duncan
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Comment

We need braver leaders to tell us home truths

Politicians' increasing reluctance to do or say unpopular things means it will be hard to solve Britain's weighty problems

Max Hastings



A seminal text about Britain in the late 20th century was the hymn of love composed by Bill Bryson, travel writer extraordinary and, as it happens, my successor as president of the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

In his 1995 *Notes From A Small Island* he rapturously celebrated crumpets, beans on toast, village fêtes, country lanes, people who say "mustn't grumble" and the chocolate digestive biscuit. We wallowed in all this, especially coming from such a nice guy who also hails from America. Bill delivered physiotherapy for our self-regard; ticked all the things we give ourselves gold stars for.

Today, three decades on, I suspect most of those assembled for last weekend's Conservative Democratic Organisation conference in Bournemouth, and the later National Conservatism gathering in London, would still echo Bryson. The Tory right is about nothing if not the past; a craving to reconnect an unpalatable 2023 sushi Britain with the chocolate digestive biscuit.

Although Suella Braverman pitched for Bring-On-Herself, the unacknowledged but almost indisputable theme of the seaside flat-earth convention was Bring Back Boris. I am saddened by how often it is necessary to remind people who still cheerlead for Johnson that their hero remains an undischarged moral bankrupt.

Yet the easy part for all of us is to deplore our politicians. It is much harder to fix upon who or what we do want — to make the choices required at elections. I have never harboured any emotion stronger than contempt towards Johnson, Liz Truss or, for that matter, Jeremy Corbyn. All three are what they always were. The people I blame are the puppeteers who elevated them to roles stratospherically beyond their rightful destinies.

Many of us want Rishi Sunak to succeed, heedless of our feelings about his party. He seems a decent, hardworking and intelligent man. As British elections become ever more presidential, it remains just possible that these qualities will enable him to prevail in 2024.

Keir Starmer is on to a good thing with his pledge to commit to house-building. Until such time as Labour's leader musters the courage to define a woman in terms that we can understand, however, it is hard to view him as a budding Attlee or even Blair. His dullness is refreshing only so far.

> Voters indulge in a playground rejection of the facts of life

The proper requirement for any prime minister is that they should be a serious person, willing to address serious domestic issues, as no national leader since 2010 has shown themselves capable of doing — it seems too early to reach a verdict on Sunak — save briefly about Covid and Ukraine.

Yet are we willing to be addressed seriously? The novelist Anthony Powell wrote long ago: "The English … never really believe in the existence of the world around them." Many people seem determined to view our country as so special, so different, that we can ignore constraints that apply to everybody else; make our own rules; invent our own truths.

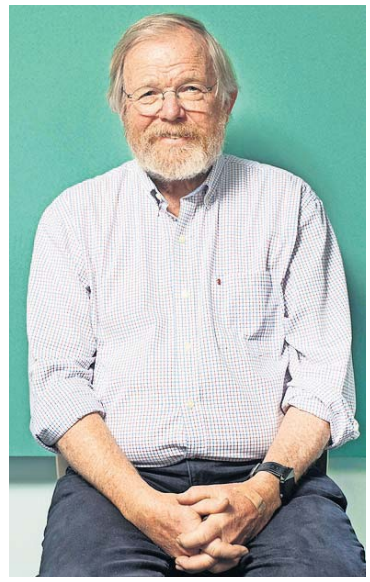
This week the Bank of England's chief economist, Huw Pill, was obliged to apologise, as did the Bank's governor, for his April complaint that British people share a "reluctance to accept that yes, we're all worse off". That statement caused a firestorm, as did Pill's supplementary observation that there is no prospect of real wages keeping pace with inflation. The remarks were obviously true, yet it was unacceptable to make them.

Many other realities, if articulated, spell doom for office-holders, for instance: that our governance has become a tyranny sustained by selfish old voters. That the NHS requires radical change rather than merely more cash. That Brexit has precipitated the progressive collapse of the British car industry. That the national plague of potholes and shameful London bridge closures are symptoms of chronic underfunding of local government. That we cannot have European standards of social services and American levels of taxation.

Meanwhile the young deserve no ideological Oyster passes until they acknowledge that beyond race, gender and climate change are harsh economic issues that must be faced, maybe even before the first two.

The red and blue walls against which politicians bang their heads are raised by voters' playground rejection of facts of life. I remember a Tory MP saying in November 1990, on the night the Iron Lady fell from power: "Well, that's the end of that, then. The British people know the Thatcher revolution has been good for them. But it's been very exhausting, and now they are relieved that it is over, and we can relax again."

There was no immediate national descent thereafter. For a further



Bill Bryson celebrated aspects of Britain that we're sentimental about

generation, despite spasms of crisis, we continued to feel pretty prosperous. Now, however, the chickens are back in the roosts. Tory MPs rail at tax levels, yet have no plausible answer to the question of how else the state can raise the £245 billion a year, in real terms, needed to sustain our public services even at their present sorry levels.

Productivity, which improved steadily in the decade from 1994, has flatlined since the 2008 financial crisis. Growth languishes compared with that of our spurned EU neighbours. Investment here has fallen steeply. A writer for the leading German newspaper Die Welt claimed in a prominent recent article that Britain is now a nation in "deep decline".

One of the best things to have happened to our society in the past century is that deference towards what were once called our "betters" has become defunct. But we pay a price in the way we are governed. MPs and especially ministers were once permitted by voters and party associations to exercise their own judgment on national issues, leaving local ones to councillors.

Today, however, constituency lobbies exercise an oppressive influence over MPs who attempt to think for themselves. We cannot hope to be better ruled until we allow our rulers, of every political colour, to focus on national issues; do and say some things that are both difficult and unpopular.

A friend with whom I puzzle over these problems says he refuses to despair when he looks abroad; sees the political morasses, arguably deeper than our own, into which other democracies appear to be sinking. France, a nation that bears close comparison with Britain in population, GDP and migrant difficulties, remains convulsed by its clever people's mulishly unclever resistance to a higher pension age.

All the British things that Bill Bryson lauded in 1995 are still here: only this morning, I enjoyed a chocolate digestive biscuit. I am one of the privileged old, however. Serious rulers need to focus on the young and how this country can become affordable for them, as today it is not. Why should they vote Conservative? In place of cake, the party's noisiest faction urged last week: let them pick fruit.

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Build on the green belt — but do it wisely

Releasing land near rail stations would allow a housing boom, with promises to rewild elsewhere

Emma Duncan



'A gimcrack civilisation crawls like a gigantic slug across the country, leaving a foul trail of slime behind it." That was Howard Marshall, the Dimbleby of his era, writing in *Britain and the Beast*, a diatribe against development published in 1938. Poets, politicians and intellectuals, including EM Forster and JM Keynes, contributed to the volume. It was part of a campaign to put a stop to the sprawl of London, which had doubled in size since the late 19th century, as developers threw up cheap houses along the roads into Kent, Surrey, Hertfordshire, Middlesex and Essex.

The campaign worked. After the war, the Labour government's 1947 Town and Country Planning Act in effect nationalised the right to develop by requiring landowners to get government permission to build on their land. At the same time, the Metropolitan Green Belt was created around London, and other cities followed. There are now 15 belts around cities, covering 12.6 per cent of Britain's land area. London's has swelled, and covers an area more than three times the size of the city.

Had we not taken those steps at that time, London (nine million people) would probably have followed the model of Tokyo-Yokohama (38 million) or New York-Newark-New Jersey (24 million) — cities that have sprawled unimpeded, absorbing settlements in their path. It's good that Britain stopped that happening, but there's a cost. While the country's population has risen, the constraints on development have tightened, squeezing economic growth and pushing up house prices.

This has been a big social problem for years. Suddenly, Sir Keir Starmer has made it political. Labour, he says, is on the side of "builders not blockers" and would allow more construction on green belt land. In response, Rishi Sunak has sided with nimbys, saying he'll protect "our green spaces" from housebuilding.

Starmer is taking a gamble. He's assuming the move won't lose him seats because Labour doesn't have much chance in nimby Tory constituencies, and that he'll gain support among the many millions who can't afford to buy a home. It will probably pay off, but he's a brave man to raise the explosive issue of the green belt, which cuts across the normal lines of the culture war and thus risks alienating potential Labour voters. People in complete harmony over small boats and trans rights can come to blows over green belts.

> Critics say green belt displaces development, rather than stops it

Supporters include the country's growing environmentalist tendency, but not all the green belts' proponents are against growth. The more thoughtful argue that belts keep cities dense. That makes for lively high streets and — because travel-to-work distances in a dense city are shorter — keeps down carbon dioxide emissions.

The green belts' opponents argue there's nothing green about them, so it's daft to leave a promising site undeveloped merely because it's in one. There's a former car wash in Tottenham Hale in north London, for instance, where an application to build housing was rejected on those grounds. Starmer gave an example of playing fields that were developed in preference to a car park, because the car park was on green belt land and the playing fields weren't.

If the green belts aren't all that pleasant, it's not surprising because that was never the intention. As Duncan Sandys, the Conservative minister who implemented London's green belt in 1955, said, "neither green nor particularly attractive scenically, the major function of the green belt…was to stop further urban development".

But, their opponents argue, they don't stop development, they displace it. Growth has leapfrogged London's green belt. Companies and people that would have gone to Sevenoaks or St Albans have instead located in Basingstoke or Crawley. According to Tony Travers of the school of public policy at the London School of Economics, while the capital's population grew from eight million in 1961 to nine million now, the population of the wider southeast (including the east of England) grew from 9.6 million to 15.5 million. The green belt's principal effects, thus, are to raise house prices within it and impose longer journeys on people who work in London and can't afford to live in the city or the green belt.

There are better ways of stopping sprawl. Britain could have opted for Copenhagen's model. It has expanded in fingers, along railway lines, facilitating congestion-free, environmentally friendly transport and protecting "green wedges" of recreational land in the city. As the car wash and car park suggest, there's nothing very recreational about our green belt. Most of it is privately owned and used for farming.

If we were to borrow from the Danes, we could increase housing supply without detracting much from the green belt. Paul Cheshire, emeritus professor of economic geography at the London School of Economics, has worked out that if we released land within ten minutes' walk — 800 metres — of railway stations within the green belts around our five biggest cities (excluding areas of outstanding natural beauty and the like) we could build 1.7-2.1 million houses, thus increasing the country's housing stock by 7-9 per cent.

Building on the green belt could also free vast resources for public use. Green belt agricultural land is cheap because there is so little chance of developing it. Planning permission, according to a developer, could increase the value of an acre of green belt land from £10,000 to £1 million. So why not make it a condition of granting permission on one acre that the landowner must give ten acres to a community trust, to rewild it or turn it into a public park? That way, we could make the green belt properly green.

Martin Samuel Notebook

Most MPs are too chicken to put in the hard graft

If you're reading this in the newspaper format, chances are my dad's already been at work for at least six hours. He's probably got another six, maybe eight to go. He's 84.

He's a poulterer but no one knows what that is any more — my spellcheck underlines it in red, and the alternative poulter too — so we say butcher for short. And by the time you've gone to Smithfield at 2am, loaded up, unloaded and got the display out for 8am, you've done the best part of a day's work and haven't really started.

So when Suella Braverman says there is no reason why we can't produce our own domestic workforces and cites butchers as an example — actually, there is. Drive past a butcher's at 5am, the light's on. Drive past at 5pm, the light's on. It's skilled labour, but long, hard and manual. And nobody wants to do it. Which is why if you go into your local branch of, say, The Ginger Pig, you're quite probably discussing chops with an east European. Certainly in London.

Weekends, we used to shop at O'Shea's in Bermondsey but they don't open any more because they also supply a lot of the restaurant trade and were working through the night every Friday, so closed to the public on Saturday. They had a young lad called Stan, whose family lived in the flats opposite and appreciated learning a trade. But Stan's an exception. All the jobs Braverman reeled off — fruit-pickers, builders, butchers — are back-breaking.

And it's possible to work very hard in a suit too. Long hours, pressure, mental exhaustion. I admire white-collar workers and I'm not saying it's easy. Just different. Chop a chicken in 16. Then do it another 400 times. Load up, unload. See how you feel at the end of the day. Most of Braverman's colleagues would last two minutes. That's why they're politicians, not poulterers.

Pampered Mogg



This starts with Jacob Rees-Mogg, who is obsessed with civil servants clocking in at home, but has the appearance of a man who hasn't done a proper day's work in his life.

What's a proper day's work? One that saps your strength. Do you see hod-carrying coming from Jacob? A double nursing shift? A chined fore rib of beef? My old man could barely keep his eyes open indoors. I used to watch him try to read The Sunday Times, the giant broadsheet screen slowly collapsing as he fell asleep behind it.

He'd look at next door's garden with its perfect borders and immaculate rows of flowers and ponder how nice it would be to have the energy to do that at the end of the day.

Tim Martin of JD Wetherspoon is also keen on getting the country out of retirement. He's lionised for keeping going at 68. "I think we should get the bastards back to work," said the founder and chairman. I bet his garden's lovely.

Tackling Trump

Now here's something that could be a growth industry. Interviewing Donald Trump.

I'll explain. Reporting football matches used to be a one-man job. Even the biggest games. Newspapers had minimal pagination for sport, so one man did it all. And then the sports sections expanded and readers wanted to hear from the manager, so a second person went along. Then bigger again. Now there was a match report, quotes and opinion. And then someone had to speak to the players. In 1996, when England played China in Beijing I was the only one there for my newspaper. By the last World Cup, when England played France, I think there were eight because a serious England game consumes 12 pages these days.

And now to Trump, noted sex abuser and presidential hopeful. A lone woman tried to interview him for CNN last week and failed. It wasn't her fault. Trump is such an ocean-going liar she was overwhelmed. He can no longer be debated with, or even fact-checked, in real time. The only way is to flood the site. Maybe two interviewers, four fact-checkers, so as one lie is told, the previous one is being challenged. Now that's an employment opportunity. Better than chopping chickens.

THUNDERER

Burying carbon could breathe new life into industry

David Whitehouse

For the past 50 years the UK has relied on oil and gas from under the North Sea. The energy and taxes from those fuels lifted our nation from the economic doldrums of the 1970s and helped turn it into one of the world's largest economies.

They also supported us through Covid and the global shortages caused by the Ukraine war. The UK remains reliant on such fuels — we still get 76 per cent of our energy from oil and gas. But the emissions from those fuels have contributed to climate change. My industry, the offshore sector, whose skills and inventiveness turned the North Sea into the UK's energy powerhouse, knows those emissions must be reduced.

Yesterday's government announcement of 20 licences to permanently bury millions of tonnes of CO_2 deep under our surrounding seabeds opens the way to do just that. Carbon capture and storage (CCS) works by capturing the CO_2 from burning such fuels, compressing it into a liquid and then injecting it into deep rock formations. Some of those formations will be depleted oil and gas reservoirs.

Britain can become a world leader here, not just because of its skilled offshore workforce but also because it is geologically blessed. Our seabeds could hold 78 billion tonnes of CO_2 — two centuries worth of UK emissions.

A CCS industry could mean new opportunities for coastal industrial cities and areas such as Aberdeen, Teesside, Liverpool and Lincolnshire. They were built on energy-intensive industries but CCS offers them a future leading the low-carbon transition. CCS also offers a low-carbon future for the gas-fired power stations that generate 40 per cent of our electricity, and for the cement, steel and plastics producers that provide our raw materials.

Some environmentalists reject such technologies for allowing the continuing use of fossil fuels. But the UK has 24 million homes reliant on gas boilers for heat, plus 32 million petrol and diesel cars. Our manufacturing industries such as steel, cement, glass-making, ship-building and car-making rely on gas to operate. We need to find low-carbon alternatives — but we need time. Technologies such as CCS are part of the long-term solution.

Developing this new industry and its high-value jobs will require significant investment, much of it from energy-producing companies. That means building a tax regime that encourages long-term investment. The UK's skilled offshore workforce, its engineering expertise and its geology have given our nation a unique opportunity to lead the world and build a lower-carbon future.

David Whitehouse is chief executive of Offshore Energies UK



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Puzzling economics of the populist right

The orthodoxy of Thatcher and Reagan is dead in the water yet modern conservatives are struggling to replace it

Gerard Baker



@GERARDTBAKER

The primary impulse behind the rise of the political phenomenon known as national conservatism in the past few years has been cultural. From the bulk of the speeches at the eponymous conference held in London this week it is clear that what mostly animates and unites this modern strand of conservative thinker and activist is resistance to the rapid pace of change in social and cultural orthodoxies.

This ought not to be surprising. It is by definition a conservative instinct to resist change and by any measure the speed of recent change is dizzying. On everything from opposition to gay marriage to the idea that sex might be biologically determined, support for the principle of sovereignty over a nation's borders or reverence for the legacy of western civilisation, positions that were seen as boringly mainstream just two decades ago are now routinely condemned as "far right" — or worse — by the cultural elites who have succeeded in moving our Overton window dramatically to the left.

It's worth remembering that as recently as 2008, Barack Obama, seen at the time and still today as an icon of cultural progressivism, ran for election opposed to the legal recognition of same-sex marriage on the basis of what he described as his Christian belief that marriage was a "sacred union" between a man and a woman. Less than 15 years later you would be cancelled on just about any university campus in Britain or America for articulating such evidently Neanderthal and offensive language.

But while resistance to the 21st century's cultural revolution may be the primary motive for this ascendant strand of conservatism, the more interesting, and complex, debate on the right is unfolding around economics. There is no consensus yet, but "national conservatives" in the US, and to some extent in Britain, are starting to coalesce around the case for a radical reimagining of conservative ideas and principles on how to reform capitalism.

> Cultural elites have moved our Overton window to the left

The intellectual revolution led by Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher in the 1970s and the success associated with its practical realisation in the 1980s has been the dominant strand of conservative economics for almost half a century. Its precepts — a smaller state, lower taxes, less government intervention in markets, free trade and liberalised capital — re-energised stagnant economies at the end of the last century.

But as was understood at the time and has become clearer in the past decade or so, this "neoliberalism" was always at odds with some other core conservative sensibilities and ideals. Its elevation of individual sovereignty unleashed destructive economic forces that have done unquestionable damage to the stability of communities that conservatives see as essential to a well-ordered and content society.

This new consensus is, rightly or wrongly, widely blamed in parts of the right as well as the left for many of the pathologies of modern capitalism: widening inequality, the hollowing out of industries, the collapse of families in the face of mounting social distress, evidenced by shockingly high levels of mental illness, addiction and suicide.

Oren Cass, who worked on Mitt Romney's presidential campaign in 2012, founded American Compass, a think tank dedicated to imagining a new conservative economic policy. He argues for a larger role for the state to direct economic resources to needy families. He told me our current economic plight calls for a rejection of old conservative nostrums

"If we think about the shape of the domestic economy with declining investment in activity, hollowing out of our industrial sector, the rise of big tech, decades of stagnant wages for your typical worker, that's a very different set of issues. And the idea that just more tax cuts, deregulation and free trade is going to solve those, it's not empirically true." There is growing political impetus behind this iconoclasm.

> Neoliberalism was always at odds with other core sensibilities

While Donald Trump played mainly to working-class Americans' cultural alienation, he also — incoherently — channelled the growing dissatisfaction with traditional conservative economics. Rising Republican figures in Trump's slipstream are also championing a larger role for government. JD Vance, the *Hillbilly Elegy* author-turned-Ohio senator, who spoke at this week's conference in London, is an outspoken critic of modern conservative orthodoxy.

There are multiple problems, however. For one thing the policies proposed don't sound very conservative. Thinkers like Cass talk about the harm done to workers by profit-maximising companies, the kind of thing that would have Karl Marx nodding in vigorous agreement. The policies proposed are also of dubious effectiveness. Trump, for example, tried tariffs to protect American domestic industry and ended up impoverishing large numbers of Americans — and having to spend billions in taxpayer funds to subsidise those who lost out.

The largest problem of all may be that the state is already enormous and growing. If anything, the scale of the public sector and tax burden is crushing economic vitality, in both the UK and the US. In the past 20 years big new government programmes, along with the growing burden of existing ones, have created deficits in both countries that call for spending cuts and a smaller government role.

Still, conservatives are right to be rethinking ideas that were relevant half a century ago. The search is on for some kind of synthesis between the values of Reagan-Thatcherism and the modern needs of the languishing economies their successors now govern.

Letters to the Editor

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THE TIMES ONE PENNY NEWSPAPER DIEU ET MON DROIT

Sewage apology

Sir, It appears that the water companies are sorry for their excessive discharge of sewage into our rivers ("We're sorry. This is our chance to put things right", May 18). Their apology was accompanied with a promise of an input of £10 billion but not from their pockets but those of their customers, who have already paid for this service and are now expected to pay again. Surely Ofwat or the government should demand that they pay for it out of their previous profits given to senior managers and shareholders.
Dr Martin Seely
Worsley, Manchester

Sir, The Times and its "Clean It Up" campaign, and Surfers Against Sewage, are to be congratulated. The water authorities and regulators should never have allowed things to get to this state. But the public need to start being more responsible as well, and to stop flushing sanitary pads and tampons down the lavatory. These, along with "wet wipes", put a huge load on the system. There would be no massive "fat bergs" if fat was not tipped into the drains, and the paving of front gardens has added to the stormwater spikes. The water companies must stay on track but the public also need to do their bit.
Brent Smith
Hitchin, Herts

Trust in politics

Sir, Rebecca McKee (letter, May 18) says reform of the House of Lords appointments process is an essential element to restoring public trust in parliament. However, fundamental to restoring trust in politics is not reform of processes but a change of behaviour. A survey last summer by YouGov found that, when offered a list of 18 options in response to the question, "How much better or worse would democracy in the UK work if…?" the most popular option was if "politicians spoke more honestly". Eighty-one per cent answered a lot or a bit better. Constitutional change in the form of structures and processes came in notably lower.

Rather than focusing on schemes of reform (often a form of displacement activity), politicians need to recognise that in their behaviour they are as much a part of the problem as they are part of the solution. Public trust has to be earned, not assumed.
Professor Lord Norton of Louth
House of Lords

Sir, Further to Boris Johnson's resignation honours list (letters, May 18), one cannot help wondering what Rachel Johnson has done wrong.
Mark Banham
Beechingstoke, Wilts

Corrections and clarifications

ipso. Regulated

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Starmer's plan to build on the green belt

Sir, You are right, in your leading article ("Build, build, build", May 18), to applaud Sir Keir Starmer's commitment to build more homes, should Labour win the next general election. This may require the release of some of the green belt. The popular image of the green belt is beauty spots, recreation grounds and playing fields. However, in my electoral division, among other things, there is a car wash, a used tyre yard and a smelly waste recycling operation, all having been allowed to operate on the designated green belt. Most local people would prefer a sensible housing development providing much-needed local homes.
Robert Evans
Councillor, Surrey county council

Sir, Regarding your leading article, there is a huge disconnect between the words of our politicians and the realities of providing homes. I was intending to convert a small disused office into flats suitable for first-time buyers in a Midlands market town. Planning is not the challenge I face, instead it is the cost of conversion, which will be very similar to the eventual sale price, before allowing for any price for the present building or profit. The spiralling cost of building is due to supply line issues caused by Covid and Brexit, labour shortages, energy cost increases and the demand for materials from largescale infrastructure projects such as HS2. If it is not economical to build homes, the housing crisis will never be solved by the private sector.
George Thomas
Banbury, Oxon

Sir, It is often overlooked that there is enough brownfield land in our cities for all our housing needs ("Starmer: I'll allow more homes on green belt", news, May 17). Building on green fields has been catastrophic for nature and wildlife. The planning system is there to protect the environment when it is under threat, so it must be strengthened, not watered down at the whim of politicians, and it must be much stricter about confining construction to brownfield sites. Calling people who care about the environment "nimbys" is misguided and counterproductive.
Anthony Jennings
London WC1

Sir, Further to your article "Labour doesn't want to build new homes either" (Will Lloyd, comment, May 15), MPs do not decide which proposed housing development happens or not. The scheme referred to in Ealing will not proceed as the private developer withdrew: the cost of enhanced fire safety measures required after the Grenfell Tower tragedy and rising build costs made it "no longer financially viable". I urged a rethinking of the scheme as two neighbouring homes for the elderly would have lost the majority of their light rights; the configuration of the flats was small units rather than family-sized homes that are most needed; and there was no green/ play space to engender a sense of community. The proposed development was in a conservation area and would have dwarfed the neighbouring grade II listed buildings dating from the 1800s. Hence Historic England and thousands of my constituents objected to the plans.

I hold a weekly advice surgery and am all too aware of local housing need, but that does not mean welcoming any poorly designed developer-led tat merely to please a scheme's shareholders.
Rupa Huq
MP for Ealing Central & Acton

Lofty leadership

Sir, Juliet Samuel suggests that "the political class is bent on trying to internationalise policy making", and so undermine the nation state ("Britain isn't enough for our lofty leaders", May 18). This view is not new. In the Common Market era, Edward Heath brusquely told Kenneth Clarke (according to the latter's political memoir, *Kind of Blue*) that, in his opinion, the age of the nation state was over. Clarke reported that Heath "never gave himself the opportunity of undertaking the Herculean task of selling that proposition to the British public". The 2016 referendum should have finally settled that with votes from "this stupid island of a mere 70 million souls". This democratic outcome was presumably of no interest to Simon McDonald, the former head of this nation's Foreign Office, or his apologists.
David Dilly
Brill, Bucks

Letters to The Times must be exclusive and may be edited. Please include a full address and daytime telephone number.

UK's baby crisis

Sir, Alice Thomson ("Men you are the cause of our baby crisis", May 17; letter, May 18) is right that fathers have a role to play in reversing our plunging birth rates. Gareth Davies MP is sponsoring a Paternity Leave and Pay Bill that would make paternity leave and pay a right from day one of employment, and which could be taken when most needed rather than only immediately after the birth. Women, though, also have a role to play. Our recent survey with Public First pollsters indicated that 79 per cent of parents with young children would like to spend more time with their children rather than rush back to work.
Cristina Odone
Head of family policy, Centre for Social Justice

Victims of crime

Sir, Matthew Parris's article on the imprisonment of offenders (May 13) and those who have written in support of his viewpoint have put the interests of the offenders before that of the victims; most of your correspondents (May 15-17) do not even mention victims of crime. Victims of crime do not want or ask to be raped, robbed, assaulted or stolen from. It is a sad reflection of our society that more time and energy is spent on offenders than victims.
Derek Natoli
Retired police inspector, Bonneville, Haute-Savoie

Clubbable shoes

Sir, Janice Turner's experience ("Gentlemen's clubs prefer blondes to wear shoes", May 18) reminds me of a similar experience I endured at the Reform Club in Pall Mall. I was escorting the ex-England rugby player Mike Leadbetter when t he was challenged by the club's doormen over his trainers. Like Ms Turner, Mike gently persuaded them that he was obliged to wear them for medical reasons. Unlike in Ms Turner's case, though, the doormen relented only on condition that he entered the building via the tradesmen's entrance and went up the back stairs. He obliged, and we had a very good lunch.
Drew Clode
London N8

REBUILDING A NEW REGENT STREET

FROM THE TIMES MAY 19, 1923

The rebuilding of London is a piecemeal process. It proceeds gradually and almost unnoticed by the average Londoner, who scarcely realises how much is being done until some returning wanderer remarks upon the changes which have taken place in his absence. This, however, is hardly the case with Regent Street, which within the space of a few years has been, is being, or will be, rebuilt. Old buildings are being demolished and new and more imposing erections are taking their place. Nowhere in London is there greater building activity and nowhere are greater changes being made.

Regent Street possesses two great advantages. The first is that it is a street designed and carried out under an Act of Parliament which aimed at making it the most effective street in London. John Nash, the architect, has been dead nearly ninety years, and very little will soon remain of any of his buildings, the perishable nature of which in his own day gave rise to the lines: "Augustus at Rome was for building renown'd, For of marble he left what of brick he had found; But is not our Nash, too, a very great master? He finds us all brick and he leaves us all plaster."

But Nash's idea still survives of uniting several buildings into a single facade, so as to preserve a degree of continuity. Regent Street's second great advantage lies in the fact that practically the whole of the land is in one ownership. The fact that the whole of Regent Street, except for some blocks north of Oxford Street, is the property of the Crown, and building designs have to be submitted to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, ensures a certain amount of uniformity in the design which cannot be so easily obtained elsewhere. What this means in practice is that each block is dealt with as a unit, and a design has to be submitted for the block.

Though no rigid standard has been adopted the general height of the buildings is that of the Quadrant. This is the latest centre of activity in Regent Street, a start having been made with the north-east side in the last few days. North of Oxford Street the frontage of the premises of Messrs Peter Robinson in Regent Street is completed, but work is proceeding on the part of the building facing Oxford Street.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Lost wildlife refuge

Sir, Pesticides are the usual suspect in the loss of wildlife ("Farming harms bird life more than cities or climate change", May 16) but there is another farming practice that isn't helping: the almost fanatical use of the flail hedge trimmer. Thousands of miles of razor-edged rows of sticks masquerading as hedges are of little use to wildlife. Annually flailed hedges produce no blackthorn, may or elder blossom and consequently no berries, and any potential sapling is unlikely to grow more than 3ft. Even solitary bushes now have their tops shaved flat.The mystery is why this operation has such a high priority in the farming calender as it increases the farm income not a jot, but as a farmer of 50 years I would say that it reflects the rather suburban, neat-and-tidy attitude towards the countryside these days.
AG Hammond
East Knoyle, Hants

Paradise of flowers

Sir, I defer to Alan Titchmarsh on almost all topics horticultural but cannot agree with his criticism of rewilding (May 18). Twenty-five years ago I asked the garden designer Sarah Eberle to create for me a garden that blurred the line between cultivated oasis and the surrounding countryside. As I write, I am surrounded by froths of Queen Anne's Lace, bluebells, clover, ox-eye daisies, cowslips, buttercups, nettles, elderflower, vetch and speedwell, alongside roses and pots of pelargonium and lobelia. As a result I have butterflies, bees and myriad other pollinators, my lawn is a tapestry and I am daily reminded that the Persian for garden is "paradise".
Dame Esther Rantzen
Lyndhurst, Hants

Cash windfall

Sir, Years ago I had reason to withdraw £4,000 in cash from my bank. As I left the bank the envelope burst, there was a gust of wind and £20 notes took to the sky like confetti. One man held up the traffic while several others gathered up the cash blowing in the wind. Not one note went missing.
Edward Staines
Brancepeth, Co Durham

Smooth operator

Sir, Years ago my husband and I became friends with a Spanish couple, Pedro and Loli, who lived in a village where we have a holiday home. My signal to my husband (letters, May 15 to 18) was to put my hand on his arm and, surreptitiously, gently pull the hairs there. I only realised my gentle curbing of his excesses had not gone unnoticed when Pedro and Loli presented my husband with a birthday present of a waxing kit.
Pamela Horner
Sunbury-on-Thames, Surrey

Terrifying pursuit

Sir, It must be terrifying to be involved in a lengthy "near catastrophic" high-speed chase by a large pack of aggressive, relentless and highly mobile pursuers, even if the incident did not prove fatal or result in any injuries. My thoughts are therefore very much with Janet Morris and Stephen Bidwell, whose 46ft yacht was chased by a pod of at least six killer whales for an hour off the coast of Tangier (report, May 18).
Giles Whiting
Taunton, Somerset

Daily Universal Register

UK: Results of Northern Ireland elections; Nationwide Building Society annual results. **World:** G7 summit starts in Hiroshima, Japan, until Sunday.

Nature notes



When the grey-headed lapwing landed in a Northumbrian field, it made history. It was the first one to be recorded in Britain. With its long yellow legs, grey head, warm brown back, white belly and black tail, this vagrant bird soon caught the attention of local birdwatchers, and it was not long before twitchers from all over the country were on their way to see this fabulous visitor — over 1,000 people are thought to have gathered. What was a grey-headed lapwing doing in the northeast? Breeding in the rice paddies and marshlands of China and Japan, grey-headed lapwings spend the winter in southeast Asia. JONATHAN TULLOCH

Birthdays today



Grace Jones, *pictured*; singer, *Pull Up to the Bumper* (1981), and actress, *A View to a Kill* (1985), 75; **Sir John Ball**, mathematician, president, The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Sedleian professor of natural philosophy (1996-2018), University of Oxford, 75; **Sir Christopher Chope**, Conservative MP for Christchurch, 76; **Chinonye Chukwu**, film-maker, *Clemency* (2019), *Till* (2022), 38; **Kyle Eastwood**, jazz musician, composer, *Gran Torino* (2008), 55; **Prof Anthony Forster**, political scientist, vice-chancellor, University of Essex, 59; **Herbie Flowers**, musician, session musician linked with Blue Mink, T Rex and Sky, 85; **James Fox**, actor, *A Passage to India* (1984), 84; **Dario Franchitti**, racing driver, four-time IndyCar series champion (2007, 2009-11), 50; **Ashraf Ghani**, president of Afghanistan (2014-21), 74; **David Helfgott**, pianist, 76; **Lord (Patrick) Hodge**, deputy president of the Supreme Court, and lord high commissioner, General Assembly, Church of Scotland, 70; **Lord (Philip) Hunt of Kings Heath**, deputy leader of the House of Lords (2008-10), 74; **Lord (Igor) Judge**, chief surveillance commissioner (2015-17), lord chief justice of England and Wales (2008-13), 82; **Robert Kilroy-Silk**, TV presenter, *Kilroy* (1986-2004), and Labour Party MP (1974-86), 81; **Sir Oliver Letwin**, Conservative then independent MP for West Dorset (1997-2019), chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (2014-16), 67; **Gitanas Nauseda**, president of Lithuania, 59; **Jodi Picoult**, author, *My Sister's Keeper* (2004), 57; **Sam Smith**, singer-songwriter, *Writing's on the Wall* (2015), 31; **Eleanor Tomlinson**, actress, *Jack the Giant Slayer* (2013), *Poldark* (2015-19), and singer, *Tales from Home* (2018), 31; **Pete Townshend**, musician, the Who, the rock operas *Tommy* (1969) and *Quadrophenia* (1973), 78; **Stephen Varcoe**, baritone, 74; **Martyn Ware**, musician and producer, founding member of Human League and Heaven 17, 67; **Heather Watson**, tennis player, Wimbledon mixed doubles winner (2016), 31; **Yazz**, singer, *The Only Way is Up* (1988), 63.

On this day

In **1897** the poet and playwright Oscar Wilde was released after serving two years of hard labour in Reading Gaol.

The last word

"Develop enough courage so that you can stand up for yourself and then stand up for somebody else." Maya Angelou, poet, actress and activist, *Rainbow in the Cloud* (2014)

Proxy Rebellion

South Africa's apparent support for Russia is cynical and misguided. It also highlights the scale of the West's challenge in convincing the global south to back Ukraine

The South African government insists it is pursuing a policy of neutrality in the Russia-Ukraine war. Yet it can hardly be surprised, given its recent conduct, if few are willing to believe it. Last week, Pretoria took great umbrage when Reuben Brigety, the American ambassador to South Africa, accused it of loading weapons and ammunition on to a sanctioned Russian cargo ship in December. The credibility of its denials was undermined when President Ramaphosa felt obliged to appoint a retired judge to investigate the claims, raising the possibility that arms were supplied without his knowledge. For his part, Mr Brigety, who has apologised for his undiplomatic language but not withdrawn the allegation, said he would "bet his life" on it being true.

Now it emerges that Pretoria is looking for a legal loophole that would allow it to ignore an international warrant to arrest Vladimir Putin if the Russian president tries to attend a forthcoming summit of emerging economies in Johannesburg next month. The South African government had previously been warned that it had a legal obligation to act on a war crimes indictment from the International Criminal Court. One of South Africa's top generals visited Moscow this week for a meeting with Colonel General Oleg Salyukov, commander in chief of the Russian ground forces, who has been sanctioned by Britain and the European Union for his role in the war with Ukraine. Last year, South Africa conducted joint naval exercises with Russia and China.

Of course, South Africa is entitled to its own foreign policy. The ruling African National Congress has long-standing links with Russia which it sees as a continuation of the USSR, which played a decisive role supporting its campaign against apartheid. More pertinently, Pretoria's willingness to indulge Moscow may be explained by a giant donation from a mining consortium with links to a Russian oligarch sanctioned by America for "worldwide malign activity" that has restored the ANC's previously parlous finances.

Yet the record fall in the rand and a sell-off in government bonds since the arms supply allegations emerged are a reminder that Pretoria's foreign policy choices are not without consequences. South Africa is a beneficiary of America's African Growth and Opportunity Act which allows duty free access for $15 billion of exports to the US market and is up for renewal in 2025. In contrast, its exports to Russia are worth less than $1 billion. The West has its own sources of diplomatic leverage and should not be afraid to deploy them.

Nonetheless, Pretoria's apparent willingness to indulge Moscow is evidence of the West's struggle to convince the so-called global south to oppose Russia's imperial war, despite these countries' own experiences of colonialism. While many nations have condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine in votes at the United Nations, few have imposed sanctions. As Fiona Hill, a former US national security council official, noted in a speech last week: "Russia has cleverly exploited deep-seated international resistance ... to continued American leadership of global institutions. Ukraine is essentially being punished by guilt through association for having direct US support in its effort to defend itself and liberate its territory."

Formulating a response to this "proxy rebellion" against the West is one of the most urgent tasks facing G7 leaders at their summit this week in Japan. To win its war, Ukraine needs the broadest global backing based on a common understanding that any world order must depend on respect for international borders and international law. That will require patient diplomatic outreach to developing countries, listening to their concerns on issues such as trade, climate change compensation and debt relief and showing that the West can offer an attractive alternative to Russia and China.

Legion of the Unwell

Ministers are failing to grip the mysterious problem of spiralling sickness claims

Among the reams of data routinely pumped out by government is a forecast about the number of people claiming sickness benefits. Alarmingly, this is expected to rise by a third over the next five years to a total of 3.7 million claimants. The Office for Budget Responsibility calculates that this will result in the welfare bill for long-term sickness rising from £39 billion now to £53 billion by 2028. Putting alarm to one side, there is another obvious reaction to these figures: puzzlement. How does the government know that these people, most of whom should be well enough to work, are going to fall chronically ill? And keep falling ill for years to come? How can this be pre-ordained?

This is one of the many curious aspects of the sickness epidemic that is one of the greatest challenges facing the economy and society. Long-term sickness has become baked into the system, quadrupling in 30 years. Already on the rise before Covid, it shot up during the pandemic by 400,000 and has remained stubbornly high since. Britain is now an outlier among major economies, being the least successful in attracting workers back into factories, shops and offices following the privations of lockdown. There are now some 2.55 million people who are economically inactive due to disability, and 5,000 more are signed off each day. This is not only a drag anchor on productivity; it is a tragedy in terms of isolation, depression and wasted potential. At its best, work is therapy. Yet, like the housing famine, this is another strategic challenge the government is content to duck.

Mel Stride, the work and pensions secretary, has declared defeat on the issue and warned that a planned shake-up in the disability benefits system, which would allow people to ease back into work without losing their whole entitlement immediately, has been shelved until after the election. Like other measures, it has become a casualty of rapidly diminishing parliamentary time before the day of reckoning at the ballot box.

Even in an era of serious economic turbulence, the country has been lulled by figures showing consistent low unemployment and high job vacancy rates. But this is because worklessness has been progressively recategorised as sickness.

So, what is causing this epidemic? The NHS backlog of more than seven million cases must be a part, and long Covid. Overworked GPs may be another. How is a GP supposed to reassess a patient on long-term sickness benefit in the few minutes available during a typical appointment? Surely the temptation is to sign them off again and move swiftly on? Official statistics suggest back and neck complaints, possibly the result of inactivity while working from home, may be playing a part. A greater willingness to admit mental health problems following lockdown may also be significant, particularly among younger inactive people. Added to this are the consequences of obesity and health inequality. But nobody knows for sure.

This should be the cue for rapid and decisive action involving a task force of ministers, doctors and employers dedicated to solutions. Instead, there is drift and fatalism and the unspoken acceptance that importing workers from abroad is a simpler answer, albeit with its own political cost.

Britain's increasing legion of the unwell is a malady without a diagnosis, let alone a cure. With the election looming, it has been filed away by ministers in the tray marked "Too Difficult for Now". Meanwhile, myriad lives go to waste.

We Are Where We Are

Countdown's Susie Dent is collecting viewers' most hated words and phrases

So, Channel 4's iconic girly swot legend has basically reached out to the *Countdown* community to up-share their least favourite clichés, jargon, fillers and slang. Major feedback! Dent is busy mining a serious data dump with loads to unpack but the main takeaway, following on from a quick down and dirty first pass helicopter view, is that stakeholders find empty, redundant, mawkish, euphemistic verbiage somewhat challenging at this present moment in time. Who knew?

Taking a deep dive into the weeds to touch base on the granular level, the chief learning is that those concerned parties who actioned Dent's request consider much contemporary office-speak failed to add value in the workplace. Yes, even "on-boarding", "low-hanging fruit" and, especially, "going forward" got major down ticks. And while obviously, these critics own their truth, and we must respect that truth, and honour where they are on their journey, the bottom line is that it is what it is and blue sky thinking isn't for everyone. Some people haven't got the bandwidth in their wheelhouse to lean in, do the heavy lifting, get on the same page and see the big picture. Aw, bless. No disrespect. Just sayin'!

These sceptics are probably stressed out. Or triggered. Or maybe they're too siloed off the reservation to get their ducks in a row and see it's a no-brainer that everything happens for a reason and there's an elephant in the room with a dog in the fight and skin in the game trying to herd cats away from the optics. We'll have to agree to disagree. Take it offline and kick the can down the road. Shift the metrics, keep everyone looped in, pivot holistically and circle back round to the whole piece to hit the sweet spot and cascade it out. Or down. Or somewhere. On Insta, maybe? But not on a school night. That's a win-win, right? Simples. Full stop.

World

South Africa defies the West to roll out red carpet for Putin

South Africa
Jane Flanagan Cape Town

South Africa is preparing to welcome President Putin despite an international arrest warrant against him, in the latest sign of Pretoria's deepening ties to Moscow.

A committee led by President Ramaphosa's deputy is poring over international and domestic laws and the Rome statute that established the International Criminal Court, after the Kremlin spurned a request for Putin to attend via Zoom.

Initial legal advice said that South Africa was obliged to act on a war crimes indictment from the Hague if he attended a planned August gathering of the Brics bloc of emerging economies, made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

"We have a legal opinion, but another independent legal opinion has been sought so that we make sure of the action that will be taken," said Zane Dangor, director-general of the South African foreign ministry.

Putin's invitation pre-dated the ICC's allegations that he was responsible for abducting Ukrainian children and deporting them to Russia. However, that has been eclipsed by a diplomatic storm over US intelligence claims that arms have been covertly sent to Russia aboard a sanctioned boat that docked in Cape Town.

A suggestion that Putin might attend the conference online — and spare Ramaphosa a headache — was declined firmly by Sergey Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister. The Kremlin has appeared keen to increase tensions between the ruling African National Congress and the US. It was the first to announce a phone call last week between Ramaphosa and Putin that included "the destructive line of the Kyiv regime".

A visit to Moscow by Lieutenant General Lawrence Mbatha, chief of the army, for talks "on combat readiness" was revealed by the Tass news agency, undermining Ramaphosa's efforts to calm the arms-to-Russia claims that led to a devaluation of the rand.

"What is important here for Moscow is the publicity and the propaganda. They want to demonstrate that they are not isolated and the western laws are helpless," said Irina Filatova, professor emeritus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal and a leading expert on Pretoria-Moscow relations.

Pretoria's contortions to dodge enforcing the ICC warrant are likely to be pointless, Filatova said, predicting that Putin had no intention of travelling to the Brics meeting.

"If you want to be an ally of Russia then you have to demonstrate that you do not accept the West's laws. It must be Putin's decision not to come to South Africa, not because of what the ICC has decided," she said. "The main reason for him not attending in person is it would be too risky. The Kremlin would not trust South Africa to defend him from a possible attack."



Ramaphosa and Putin met at a summit in Sochi in 2019 and their relationship remains close

Friction with Washington over the arms allegations, Pretoria's failure to back sanctions against Moscow and its warm welcome for Lavrov and Russian and Chinese warships for joint-naval exercises during the first anniversary of the Ukraine invasion threaten South Africa's continued privileged access to US-Africa trade with a benefit of $15 billion in exports.

Much has been made of the historic links between the ANC and the Soviet Union, which supported its anti-apartheid struggle, to explain the government's warmth towards Moscow, even if many of its top fighters were trained by Ukraine during the Soviet era.

A more likely explanation is highlighted in the ANC's own funding documents which revealed the party benefited from a R25 million (£12 million) donation from a mining consortium co-owned by a company with links to the ANC and the oligarch Viktor Vekselberg, who has been sanctioned by the US Treasury.

Other Russian favours that would boost support for the unpopular ANC would be co-ordinated social media campaigns that also serve Moscow's ambitions to undermine western interests and keep its grateful allies in power.

Duduzile Zuma-Sambudla, the daughter of Jacob Zuma, the ex-president who credited Moscow for saving his life from poisoning, has been named as a key pro-Kremlin influencer by the London-based Centre for Information Resilience.

Support for Putin has also come from the radical Economic Freedom Fighters, which has offered to protect the Russian leader from arrest under the ICC warrant when and if he lands in Johannesburg.

South Africa's action is cynical and misguided, leading article, page 29



Say freeze: flurry of Disney fans irks village

Every year a million tourists descend on Hallstatt, a fairytale alpine village that was apparently the inspiration for the kingdom of Arendelle in the Disney film *Frozen* (Rob Hyde writes).

Nestled on the glistening shores of Hallstätter Lake, and with the imposing Dachstein mountains as a backdrop, the views are so breathtakingly magical that the village has been a Unesco World Heritage site since 1997.

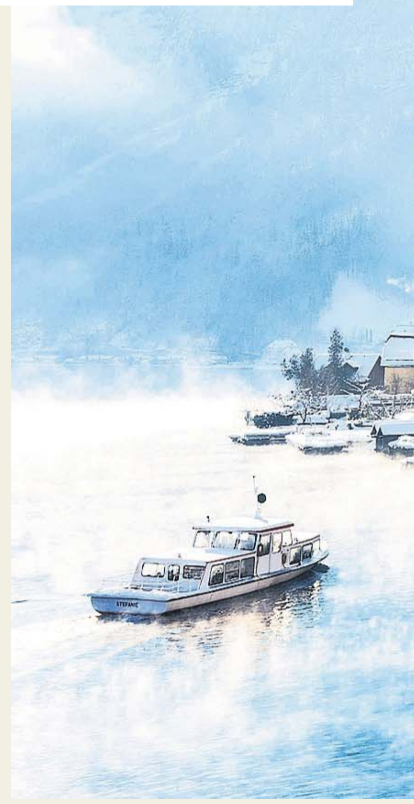
But beauty comes at a price. The Austrian village has a population of about 750 but its narrow streets are being overrun by tourists taking selfies, according to Alexander Scheutz, the mayor. As many as 7,000 a day visit during peak times, desperate to take a picture of the place that inspired the kingdom of Princess Elsa.

Andrea Zimmermann, who lives directly above the selfie hotspot, told the ORF TV network that the noise was affecting her health and that of her husband.

"I am really concerned about my husband. He had to go back and see the doctors again, he now has problems with his heart. And with me, the gastritis is coming back. So, psychologically, things are going really badly for us," she said.

This week, in an attempt to fend off tourists, the mayor arranged for two wooden fences to be placed at the exact spot where they like to be photographed, with a backdrop of the lake, the mountains, the pastel-coloured houses and the charming church tower.

Scheutz told the website Upper Austrian News that the best thing



Hallstatt's picture postcard views are said to have been the inspiration for Princess Elsa's home. A fence to deter the tourist influx has been removed

Russia will face financial crisis in 2024, says former minister

Russia
Maxim Tucker

Russia's former first minister for the economy has predicted that western sanctions over the war in Ukraine will push the country into a financial crisis next year.

Andrey Nechayev, 70, told businessmen attending the Ekaterinburg financial forum this week that the country's finances were "in the shit". "And what's worse is that we've decided to settle down there," he said, in a rare high-level criticism of President Putin's policies.

The comment drew nervous smiles; in wartime Russia dissenters are often arrested, tortured and poisoned. Nechayev added that while "McDonald's can be replaced by blini [Russian pancakes], high-tech products can't".

Nechayev, who was in office from 1992 to 1993 after the break-up of the Soviet Union, said Russia had exceeded its planned budget deficit for 2023 in the first four months.It would have to begin borrowing next year, he said.

Those problems were being compounded by mass emigration, capital outflows and falling oil and gas revenues, he added. The US, UK and European Union and their allies have imposed stringent sanctions on Russia in response to its invasion of Ukraine.

Western companies have frozen Russian assets overseas and there are plans to confiscate them to pay Ukraine war reparations. Many Russian companies have been banned from western markets and financial institutions, Russian ships are banned from European ports and the continent has reduced its reliance on Russian oil and gas.

Sectors reliant on western technology have been particularly badly hit. Russia's airlines are struggling with aircraft safety. After a series of unplanned inspections, Viktor Basargin, head of Russia's transport watchdog, said that more than 2,000 flights took off last year using parts beyond their recommended shelf life. The watchdog found a shortage of components because it was "simply impossible to import certain products", he said.

Russian media have reported that Aeroflot has been ordering staff not to report aircraft faults because it cannot fix them. Desperate Russian airlines have turned to criminal networks in the US offering to bypass sanctions to procure millions of dollars worth of parts, the New York Times reported.

Russia has begun a series of retaliatory measures against western sanctions, often designed to benefit Putin's allies. The Kremlin has passed laws allowing the nationalisation of foreign assets.

Economists had been surprised by the resilience of the Russian economy in the face of these measures, with GDP only slightly affected, food still available and wages paid regularly. Unemployment is at its lowest rate in 30 years.

However, some analysts believe that the Kremlin has used "Potemkin indicators" to disguise a market headed for collapse. There are fewer unemployed because hundreds of thousands have left the country, are fighting in Ukraine or have been killed. And more than a million workers are technically employed but on unpaid leave, said the economist and opposition leader Vladimir Milov in an article for the Insider, an independent media outlet.

"All the current methods of stabilisation — draconian regulations, import substitution, a turn to Asia, parallel imports, bypassing sanctions through third countries — are only temporary half-measures and cannot create a sustainable economic system," he wrote. "One shouldn't be deceived by what currently seems to be a stabilisation."

Currency of crisis: The dollar rules in Lebanon's broken economy
Page 32



Springsteen hits a sour note with gig in Italy's devastated flood region
Page 33

ALAMY; REINHARD HORMANDINGER/APA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; DISNEY





would be to devise a way to eliminate the photo point for good. He then put up the wooden "privacy screens" to allow the community to assess their effectiveness.

However, the move quickly prompted a backlash on social media and from some residents. The fences have been dismantled.

"It was just a tryout," a contrite Scheutz said. "We discussed it in the municipal council.

"But the plan has now been discarded, there will be no such privacy screen in Hallstatt."

Instead, the village will now display a banner which reads: "We live here. Please enjoy the view in peace."

Halstatt owes its existence to its rich salt deposits and mighty salt chambers, which were discovered there more than 4,000 years ago.

The village has proved so irresistible to Chinese visitors that in 2017 architects built a replica of it in Guangdong province in the south of the country.

Hallstatt's residents initially had reservations but then embraced the idea, regarding it as an opportunity for tourism and advertising.

An unexpected consequence emerged, however, as countless Chinese tourists began turning up to see the original scene in all its alpine glory.

Big Apple is too heavy for its own good

United States
Will Pavia New York

New York city may be sinking under the weight of its buildings, according to a report which warns that further additions to the skyline will only make the problem worse.

The report, which attempts to place the Big Apple on a metaphorical set of bathroom scales, says that it now weighs 1.68 trillion pounds (or about 762 million tonnes).

Even this measurement probably flatters New York, for it only includes the city's million buildings, and not its roads, bridges and assorted lamp posts, though these generally apply less downward force on the ground. A road's mass is more broadly distributed, said Tom Parsons, a geophysicist at the US Geological Survey who was the lead author on the paper. "Skyscrapers apply way more pressure."

Broadly speaking, New York, like other parts of the eastern seaboard, is subsiding at about 1-2 millimetres a year. But Parsons and his co-authors, three oceanographers from the University of Rhode Island, believe that the city's considerable bulk is also contributing to subsidence.

"The point of this paper is to raise awareness that every additional high-rise building constructed at coastal, river, or lakefront settings could contribute to future flood risk," they write, in an article published this month in the journal Earth's Future.

The authors of the new study, *The Weight of New York City: Possible Contributions to Subsidence From Anthropogenic Sources*, say most of the largest buildings in Manhattan are "anchored to bedrock" and do not contribute to ongoing subsidence — but other parts of the city are built on layers of soil.

The weight of buildings was "only one potential contributor" to the slow and steady subsidence of the city, they said. But two recent hurricanes, in 2012 and 2021, have exposed its vulnerability to flooding. The city plans to build a new centre to study climate change on Randall's Island in New York harbour. As seas rise it will be "important to be mindful of accompanying mitigation strategies against inundation in growing coastal cities," Parsons and his co-authors write.

Kyiv air defences destroy 29 of Kremlin's 30 missiles

Ukraine
Marc Bennetts Kharkiv

Russian missile strikes that sent black smoke billowing into the skies over Kyiv yesterday were part of a wave of "unprecedented" attacks on the Ukrainian capital, officials said.

Air raid sirens wailed from 7am after Moscow launched cruise missiles, including from strategic bombers over the Caspian Sea. It was the ninth consecutive night of large-scale strikes, as Russia braces for an expected Ukrainian counteroffensive.

There were no reports of injuries but debris fell across eastern Kyiv, starting fires and causing damage. Ukraine said it had destroyed 29 of 30 missiles launched from land, sea and air.

"All targets over Kyiv were shot down," General Valery Zaluzhny, head of the armed forces, said. One person was killed and two injured in a missile strike on an industrial facility in Odesa.

Ukraine's air defences have been bolstered by the recent arrival of US-made Patriot missile systems. This week Ukraine said it had shot down six Russian hypersonic Kinzhal missiles, which President Putin had boasted were "invincible". The barrage was the biggest deployment of the hypersonic weapons since the start of the war.

Moscow denied that the missiles had been shot down. However, the Kremlin said that three Russian academics who worked on hypersonic missile technology were being charged with treason, a sign that it is seeking scapegoats. The scientists denied the charges.

Russia said on Tuesday that it had destroyed a Patriot missile system in Kyiv in a "high-precision strike" by a Kinzhal missile. US officials told CNN the air defence system was hit but damage was "minor" and it was still operational.

Yuriy Ihnat, a spokesman for Ukraine's air force, told Ukrainian television: "I ask everyone to remain calm — the air defence is working and will continue to offer protection."

There were unconfirmed reports of a Russian Kalibr cruise missile launched at Ukraine crashing in Crimea.

NATIONAL POLICE OF UKRAINE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Russian missile debris fell across eastern Kyiv after the early-morning launch

Dmytro Kuleba, Ukraine's foreign minister, has met China's special envoy to Ukraine in Kyiv, three weeks after President Xi spoke by telephone to President Zelensky. China, which has not condemned Russia's invasion, has put forward a plan to end the fighting.

● The Pentagon said it overestimated the value of US weapons and ammunition sent to Ukraine by $3 billion, potentially freeing up more funds for military support to combat the invasion. Defence officials blamed the discrepancy on an accounting error.

Dollar rules in economic ruin of Lebanon

Lebanon
Richard Spencer Beirut

The world's worst financial crisis has turned Lebanon into a "cash dollar" economy that risks becoming a haven for money-laundering, according to a damning new World Bank report.

As the Lebanese pound has collapsed in value since a government debt default three years ago, consumer goods have increasingly been priced in dollars. Restaurants were allowed to start the practice last year. Phone and internet companies, supermarkets and, petrol stations have followed suit.

Dollars have been used to stabilise other countries in crisis over the decades, from Latin America to Zimbabwe. But the World Bank said that in Lebanon the change has not been accompanied by economic reform and with the country maintaining its tradition of an open financial system the dollar cash economy "heightens risk".

The warning is particularly relevant at a time when Lebanon's Arab neighbours and western countries alike are paying increasing heed to the country's status as a gateway for large-scale drug smuggling. Hezbollah, the militant faction which is also the country's dominant Shia political grouping, has been accused of masterminding the trade.

The World Bank report says: "The systemic failure of Lebanon's banking system and the collapse of the currency have resulted in a large, dollarised cash-based economy.

"It not only threatens to compromise the effectiveness of fiscal and monetary policy, but also heightens the risk of money laundering, increases informality, and prompts further tax evasion."

The financial collapse, worsened by the coronavirus pandemic and the huge explosion in Beirut's port in August 2020, is the most extreme of any country in modern times. The official poverty rate in what was previously one of the region's most prosperous countries has risen from about 40 per cent of the population to more than 80 per cent since the debt default in March 2020.

Banks which had lent huge amounts of money to the central bank to shore up the exchange rate were exposed by the default and froze customers' accounts.

Instead of immediate reforms, the central bank tried to manage the crisis by arcane financial engineering involving different exchange rates for different purposes, which bank share-holders have leveraged to increase private wealth. As a result, the currency has lost more than 98 per cent of its value. The largest denomination note, with a face value of 100,000 Lebanese pounds, is now worth 85 pence, down from £50 before the crisis. Rapid inflation has driven shops simply to mark prices in dollars and put up signs with today's exchange rates at check-outs.

The economy is dominated by the need for "fresh" hard currency, making a new rich class of pensioners with families living abroad who have traditionally relied on them sending home a few hundred dollars a month.

Middle-class staff employed by international companies or agencies who are paid dollar salaries have also increased their relative wealth. New restaurants are opening weekly in prosperous parts of the capital, Beirut, despite the rise in begging.

Riad Khairallah, marketing manager for Charcutier Aoun, a local supermarket chain, said customers were now more and more using actual dollars to pay, rather than losing money on conversion rates.

The World Bank said cash transactions now made up 45 per cent of all gross domestic product, with independent experts putting the figure as high as 60-70 per cent. As a result, the already low tax take had fallen further, disabling the government. There had been "a near complete collapse of public finances to the lowest rates globally", the report said.

While a country with hardly any taxes or government spending might seem a libertarian's paradise, this has had a major effect on national and public security, with police and soldiers saying they can no longer afford to go to work. There has also been little control over corruption. The central bank governor, Riad Salameh, is accused of large-scale embezzlement and money laundering.

Nasser Saidi, a former vice-governor of the Lebanese central bank, said the government had failed to make any meaningful reforms, meaning dollarisation was just plunging the country further into a vicious cycle of decline.

Lebanon was now in a position of countries whose economic systems were beyond repair, such as Venezuela or Somalia. "I call us Lebazuela," he said.

ANTHONY HOPKINS/INSTAGRAM



Hail Vespasian! Anthony Hopkins as the Roman emperor, who ruled in AD69-79, in the gladiator series Those About to Die

5,000 troops join hunt for policeman's killer

El Salvador
Stephen Gibbs
Latin America Correspondent

President Bukele of El Salvador has ordered thousands of troops to surround a town in the hunt for those responsible for the murder of a policeman.

The officer was killed by suspected gang members on Tuesday in Nueva Concepcion, home to 30,000 people, 50 miles north of San Salvador, the capital.

More than 5,000 soldiers and 500 police officers were involved in the operation. Those responsible for the killing "will pay dearly for the murder of our hero", Bukele said on Twitter.

The president has declared zero tolerance for gang violence in the central American nation. Over the past 12 months, his government has arrested 68,000 suspected gang members — 1 per cent of the population.

Those detained are held under state-of-emergency provisions. Many are jailed in a mega-prison — one of the largest in the world and built to accommodate 40,000 inmates — inaugurated in February.

Bukele, 41, said the hunt for those who murdered the policeman would not just target his killers but also "the entire structure of gang members and collaborators". Government social media showed security forces searching homes and asking for identity documents.

Bukele's hardline policy has alarmed human rights groups but has proved popular at home, with his approval ratings in one poll topping 90 per cent. It has also yielded results. Over the past year, crime has slumped. Businesses say extortion demands have all but vanished.

Following the killing in Nueva Concepcion, the country's congress, entirely controlled by pro-Bukele politicians, voted to extend the state of emergency until June 15.

The president, who once described himself on Twitter as "the world's coolest dictator", has attracted a cult following, both inside and outside El Salvador, because of his attitude towards crime and ambition to turn the nation into a bitcoin powerhouse. In 2021, it became the first country to adopt the cryptocurrency as legal tender.

Trailing DeSantis 'to announce White House run next week'

United States
Alistair Dawber Washington

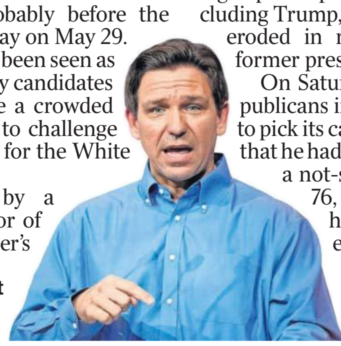
Ron DeSantis will formally announce next week that he is running for president, ending months of speculation and beginning what could prove to be a bruising encounter with Donald Trump for the Republican nomination.

The Florida governor, 44, has been running a shadow campaign for months. He has toured the country to speak at Republican gatherings, published an autobiography that sets out his vision for America and visited key US allies including Britain.

He is expected to file papers with the federal election commission and make a formal declaration in his home town of Dunedin — probably before the Memorial Day holiday on May 29.

DeSantis has long been seen as one of the more likely candidates — in what could be a crowded Republican field — to challenge President Biden, 80, for the White House next year.

His re-election by a landslide as governor of Florida in November's midterm elections gave him a double-digit opinion poll lead over his rivals, including Trump, but that advantage has eroded in recent weeks and the former president is well in front.



Ron DeSantis has set out his White House stall for months

On Saturday, DeSantis told Republicans in Iowa — the first state to pick its candidate in February — that he had always ignored polls. In a not-so-subtle dig at Trump, 76, he added that the party had got used to losing elections.

"Governing is not about building a brand or talking on social media and virtue signalling," DeSantis told party officials at a picnic in a rural part of Iowa that voted heavily for Trump in 2020. "It's ultimately about winning and about producing results."

DeSantis faces a huge task in overhauling Trump's lead, however, despite the latter's legal problems. According to the analysts FiveThirtyEight, Trump has the support of 53.1 per cent of Republican voters. DeSantis trails in second place on 21.3 per cent. A poll for YouGov — completed after a New York court last week ordered Trump to pay damages of $5 million for sexual assault — put Trump 33 points ahead. Some party strategists have advised DeSantis to wait for four years, or even to serve as Trump's vice-president, but his camp feels that he can get back on top.

The governor will hope that his formal declaration puts a rocket under his campaign, which has been hampered by errors. Some have asked why he chose to take on Disney over its criticism of his education legislation known as the Don't Say Gay bill. Yesterday the company said it was scrapping plans to move 2,000 jobs to Florida, blaming "changing business conditions".

Penguin Random House announced this week that it is suing Florida after some of its books were removed from classrooms.

Erdogan rival vows to kick out refugees

Turkey
Hannah Lucinda Smith Istanbul

Turkey's opposition leader has pledged to send back all refugees and confront terrorism as he prepares to face President Erdogan again at the ballot box.

In his first speech since Sunday's election, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, 74, appeared to be abandoning his grandfatherly image in favour of a tougher stance to attract nationalist votes.

Erdogan, 69, took the lead but narrowly missed the 50 per cent needed to win outright in the first round. A third candidate, the nationalist Sinan Ogan, took just over 5 per cent of the votes, and Kilicdaroglu is now trying to win those, as well as appealing to the more hardline elements within his coalition before the run-off on May 28.

Some voters appear to have been put off Kilicdaroglu by his efforts to appeal to the Kurds, who make up about a fifth of Turkey's population. The main Kurdish party, the Kurdish People's Democratic Party (HDP), agreed not to field a candidate in order to support Kilicdaroglu and Erdogan used this to claim that the opposition was winning votes from terrorists.

In a speech to his party yesterday, Kilicdaroglu accused Erdogan in turn of "sitting at the table with terrorists" during secret talks with the PKK, the Kurdish militia proscribed in Turkey, European Union member states and America, a reference to talks leading up to a peace process in 2013 that fell apart two years later as the PKK resumed its armed campaign. "Erdogan, aren't you the one who repeatedly sits at the table with terrorist organisations and made deals behind closed doors? I will never follow any compromising and secret path you follow," Kilicdaroglu said.

It is a marked departure from the first round, when Kilicdaroglu largely ignored Erdogan's smears against him and focused on a message of unity. He flashed a heart hand sign at rallies, and nurtured an unassuming image with videos from his study and kitchen.

But the results of the election, although the worst that Erdogan has had, were a victory for the nationalist elements within Turkish politics. Erdo-



Kemal Kilicdaroglu is talking tough before a new vote

gan's AK Party hung on to its parliamentary majority thanks to a surge in support for its hard-right allies.

There is also a nationalist party within Kilicdaroglu's coalition, which has previously refused to sit down with Kurdish politicians. Kilicdaroglu must now walk a tightrope to attract nationalist support while avoiding alienating the Kurds, who showed the strongest backing for him in the first round.

Immigration may also be on voters' minds. Polls show that an overwhelming majority of Turks are unhappy about the estimated five million refugees, mostly Syrians, living in the country, and all the main parties have pledged to remove them. Yesterday Kilicdaroglu went a step further by promising to return all refugees as soon as he comes to power, and accused Erdogan of "selling citizenship to provide imported votes".

Kilicdaroglu's Republican People's Party has also reshuffled its communications and campaign team following criticism over its confused messages during the count, when it repeatedly claimed that Kilicdaroglu was ahead, and for its passivity in the days since.

LUCA BRUNO/AP; CLAUDIA GRECO/REUTERS; KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES

Springsteen criticised as rescuers dig in the mud

Rescuers are digging through mud for victims of the catastrophic flooding that hit northern Italy this week (Tom Kington writes).

As the death toll reached 13, a regional governor said the damage to homes, farms and businesses would run to billions of euros. After up to 50cm of rain — half the annual average — fell in 36 hours in some parts of the Emilia Romagna region this week, some 21 rivers burst their banks, forcing residents to seek refuge on rooftops.

Forty-two towns have been hit by the flooding and 280 landslides have cut off villages. Residents have been warned to be ready for waters to rise again tomorrow. Experts called the deluge the "new normal" in the age of climate change.

Bruce Springsteen was criticised for playing a sold-out concert in Ferrara, about 30 miles from the centre of the flooding, with one l councillor calling the gig an insult to the "pain, desperation and difficulty" of the 20,000 people left homeless.

Tiziana Ferrario, an Italian TV presenter, tweeted: "I love Bruce Springsteen but given the victims and the towns submerged by mud, the Ferrara concert seems out of tune … Once you would go and shovel and help who was buried in mud rather than singing and dancing thoughtlessly in the same area."

This weekend's Formula One grand prix at Imola, closer to the worst of the flooding, was cancelled to avoid diverting emergency workers.

Stefano Bonaccini, the regional governor, said the clean-up would cost "a few billion euros", adding: "The devastation is like another earthquake", a reference to the deadly tremor that struck in 2012.

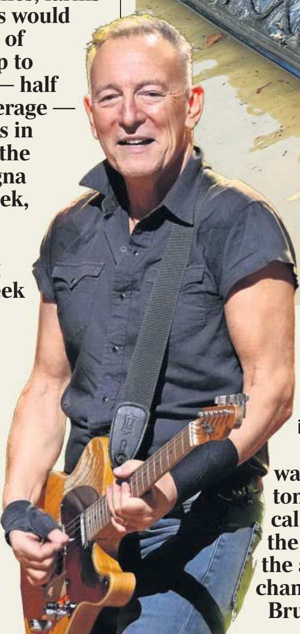
The Ferrari car company, which is based in Emilia Romagna, offered €1 million to help the clean-up. Officials announced that 250 roads were closed and 34,000 residents were without electricity.

In Ronta di Cesena, a flood victim whose body was carried about ten miles and dumped on a beach was named as Palma Maraldi, 73. A well-known figure, Maraldi was swept away after she left her house to take care of her family's donkey.

Citing a deadly landslide on the Italian island of Ischia in November, Nello Musumeci, the civil protection minister, said Italy was increasingly suffering tropical-style cycles of drought followed by intense rain.

"Nothing will ever be the same again, and what has happened in these hours is evidence of that," he said.







A rescue under way in Faenza. Springsteen was accused of "an insult" to victims

Drought drives shepherd to revive ancient odyssey

Spain
Isambard Wilkinson Madrid

To beat a drought and fulfil a childhood dream, a shepherd is driving his flock 350 miles across Spain on ancient livestock routes to reach fresh pastures.

Sheep have been driven across Spain on special highways for 8,000 years but the annual transhumancia — the migration of sheep from south to north in spring and their return home in the autumn — is dying out.

José Manuel Sánchez, 43, a shepherd from La Hinojosa farm in southwestern Extremadura, has been forced to buck the trend due to a long-term drought, with the driest start to a year since modern records began.

"We have not seen a drop of rain since December," he said, on the sixth day of what he estimates will be a 40-day journey. "And we had already had a very bad year. It was a matter of survival. I had to set out on the road urgently to look for water [for] the animals. There was no other way."

To make the task harder, Sánchez joked, he had brought along his father, 71, and his mother, in her sixties, who help with the work. Since a boy he has dreamt of "following in the steps of my



ancestors" by going on Spain's transhumancia routes, known as via pecuarias and cañadas reales that criss-cross the Iberian peninsula. "I wanted to do it before my parents became too old," Sánchez said. Their retinue includes 30 goats, a donkey and a car to pull a cart in case of accidents. They are accompanied by 12 dogs, including eight mastiffs to deter wolves. "In the north there are also bears, but not as many as the wolves," Sánchez said.

Sleeping in a tent, cooking by the roadside and napping in tree shade, Sánchez said: "We're walking slowly, a bit at a time, according to the animals' pace. We wake up at 6am, have breakfast, pack the tent, then rest at midday as the animals also need a rest. We eat and have a siesta before starting again at 5pm and keep going until night falls." Rain has started to fall in Spain notably in the north and south. At the weekend more is expected in Extremadura and the plains of Castile but Sánchez said it was too late for his 1,700 sheep. "I've found a good pasture in the north, in Riaño in Leon province. Our teenage children will join us in the holidays and we'll stay there in a hut until October, then we'll return home." In the first half of the 16th century, when Spain's merino wool was prized in Europe, three million sheep were involved in the transhumancia. According to the Transhumance and Nature Association, only 52 families continue the practice. "I am feeling happy," Sánchez said. "Some days are harder than others and the parents slow me down a bit. But I like it."



José Manuel Sánchez has taken his parents on his trek

Petrus puts a stopper on cheeky red impostor

France
Adam Sage Paris

Lovers of wine thought they were onto a good thing when they spotted bottles of what many took to be Petrus on sale for less than €15.

The Rolls-Royce of clarets is usually more expensive. Piers Morgan, for example, was given a Petrus worth £40,000 a few years ago.

But there was a hitch. The cheap bottles were not Petrus but Petrus Lambertini, a blended wine created by two brothers with no links to the hallowed vineyard in the district of Pomerol, in Bordeaux.

This week, the civil court in Bordeaux ordered Stéphane and Jérôme Coureau to pay €1.18 million to Petrus for harming its reputation with their cheap imitation. It included €500,000 in damages and €680,000 to cover the Coureau brothers' profits from the venture.

The dispute began a decade ago when the brothers, who own vineyards in Blaye, which is much less prestigious than Pomerol, launched Petrus Lambertini Major Burdegalensis 1208. The label, which has two keys, spoke of history. Petrus Lambertini was the mayor of Bordeaux who refused to hand the keys to the city to the King of Castille in 1208.

The Moueix family of wine merchants and makers, who own Petrus, argued that drinkers would take Petrus Lambertini to be its second wine. Many great Bordeaux vineyards make a second vin with grapes deemed unworthy for their main wines. Petrus makes only a grand vin with Merlot grapes from vines that are, on average, 40 years old.

The vineyard initially took legal action in the criminal court accusing the Coureau brothers of "misleading commercial practices". But the case was thrown out. Judges at the civil court then ruled that Petrus Lambertini had "parasited" Petrus's image and standing.

Petrus, which was founded in the mid-18th century said: "The firm wishes to guarantee consumers the commercial origin of the products identified by the name Petrus and will pursue with determination any company that uses its name illegally."

The Coureau brothers said they would appeal against the ruling.

AVENET PASCAL/ABACA/SHUTTERSTOCK



Take a bough Michel Robillard, a retired cabinetmaker, takes the wooden Citroen 2CV he crafted for a spin in Montbazon, France

Burgundy, the River Rhône and Provence

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First state to ban TikTok ignites free speech battle

United States
Hugh Tomlinson

Montana has become the first American state to outlaw TikTok as political pressure grows for a nationwide ban on the Chinese-owned social media app.

The law, set to come into force at the beginning of next year, is the latest move in a fraught debate over security concerns with the video-sharing platform. It will be an acid test for a potential US ban on the video-sharing platform after allegations — adamantly denied by the owner ByteDance — that it is a surveillance tool for Beijing.

The Republican governor of Montana, Greg Gianforte, said the legislation underscored the state's "priority to protect Montanans from Chinese Communist Party surveillance".

The law will force Apple and Google to remove TikTok from their app stores or face daily fines of $10,000.

"The Chinese Communist Party using TikTok to spy on Americans, violate their privacy, and collect their personal, private and sensitive information is well documented," Gianforte said.

TikTok has said the ban is unconstitutional and it is likely to be challenged in court. The law says that the ban can be avoided if TikTok splits from its Chinese owners and is based instead in a country that the United States does not regard as a foreign adversary.

Civil liberties groups have raised objections to the legislation. Keegan Medrano, policy director at the American Civil Liberties Union of Montana, said that political leaders had "trampled on the free speech of hundreds of thousands of Montanans who use the app to express themselves, gather information, and run their small business, in the name of anti-Chinese sentiment".

Brooke Oberwetter, a TikTok spokeswoman, condemned Montana's move as "egregious government overreach" and said the company would defend the rights of TikTok users against attempts to "censor American voices".

"We want to reassure Montanans that they can continue using TikTok to express themselves, earn a living, and find community as we continue working to defend the rights of our users inside and outside of Montana," Oberwetter said.

She added that the bill's backers had "no feasible plan" to put the ban into practice. Although the ban targets app stores rather than individuals, forbidding downloads of a social media app in a particular jurisdiction is nearly impossible because internet users are often able to find a way to hide their location.



TikTok faces calls for a US-wide ban

Montana's ban comes as the FBI and US Department of Justice have opened an investigation into allegations that TikTok employees illegally tried to use the personal data of journalists reporting on TikTok and ByteDance in an attempt to trace the source of their coverage. An internal inquiry by ByteDance found that staff had gained access to the journalists' personal data, IP addresses and contacts through their TikTok accounts.

The app is already banned on government devices in the UK, the United States, Canada and several countries in Europe.

Legal win for social media

Mark Sellman
Technology Correspondent

Twitter, Facebook and Google are not liable for terrorist postings on their platforms, the US Supreme Court has ruled.

In a victory for the tech companies, the justices said that the platforms did not "aid and abet" Islamic State terror attacks by hosting posts supportive of the group.

The court was deliberating on two cases that threatened to reform the immunity that big tech companies enjoy in the US for content they host.

In both cases, families of people killed by Islamist gunmen had tried to hold the companies liable, although neither provided evidence there was direct causation between the content and the attacks.

The family of Nawras Alassaf, who was killed in an Islamic State attack at an Istanbul nightclub in 2017, tried to use the Anti-Terrorism Act to claim that posts on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube had not been policed properly by the platforms. However, Justice Clarence Thomas said the companies didn't provide the "knowing and substantial assistance to Isis" necessary to find them culpable under the act.

As a result of that decision, the court declined to rule on a second case under the Section 230 law that gives internet companies blanket protection, as it had little chance of success.

Business

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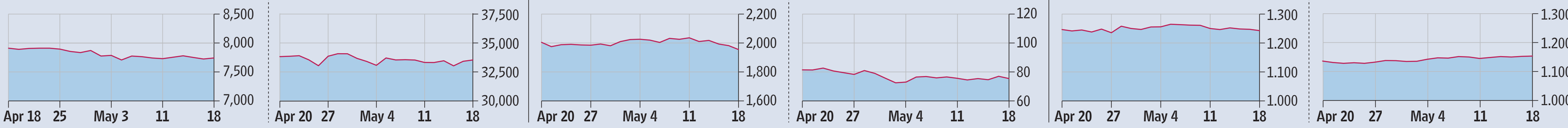
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Brent crude (6pm) $75.64 (-1.32) ▼

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Banking licence for troubled Revolut is hanging in the balance

Benjamin Martin Banking Editor

The fate of Revolut's attempts to secure a long-awaited banking licence from City regulators was thrown into further doubt last night after it emerged that the Bank of England was minded to reject the company's application.

The London-based group is the darling of Britain's fintech industry and has been seeking approval for a licence from the Bank's Prudential Regulation Authority and the Financial Conduct Authority for more than two years. However, a source said last night that the PRA had informed the Treasury that it was minded to reject Revolut's application, although they said that a final decision had not been made. The Daily Telegraph was the first to report the development.

Failure to gain a licence from Revolut's home regulators would pose an obstacle to the group's ambitions to expand its operations in other countries. It would also be a blow to Britain's wider fintech industry and to Rishi Sunak's government, which has sought to champion the tech sector.

Revolut, the PRA and the Treasury all declined to comment.

Revolut became one of Europe's biggest fintechs when it was valued at $33 billion in July 2021, after raising $800 million from investors including Softbank.

It was set up in 2015 by Nik Storonsky, who is its chief executive, and Vlad Yatsenko as a cross-border money transfer platform but is now a sprawling business, with operations spanning cryptocurrency trading and pet insurance.

The company has more than 28 million customers globally, including six million in the UK, and has more than 6,000 employees.

This month it emerged that Revolut's chief financial officer and UK banking boss were leaving before the conclusion of the company's long wait for a UK bank licence.

In March, Revolut's external auditors, BDO, raised concerns in its 2021 accounts about the "completeness and occurrence" of close to £500 million of turnover and its "underdeveloped financial control environment".

It hopes to file new accounts for 2022 in the summer.

UK to put £1bn into microchips

Investment a fraction of that in US and Europe

Katie Prescott
Technology Business Editor

Up to £1 billion will be invested in the microchip industry over the next decade as part of the government's long-delayed semiconductor strategy — a fraction of the tens of billions being invested by the US and the EU.

Publishing its plans for boosting production of the crucial electronic components, the Department for Science, Industry & Technology acknowledged that the UK would never be a superpower in the sector because of the expense of building semiconductor factories, known as fabs.

America has put $50 billion behind its microchip industry and the EU has put in more than €43 billion, with a view to doubling its global market share in semiconductors to 20 per cent by 2030. In contrast, the UK will invest up to £200 million by 2025, which should stretch to £1 billion by 2033, although this will be subject to future discussions.

Dr Simon Thomas, chief executive and founder of Paragraf, a Cambridgeshire-based firm that manufactures graphene to mass-produce semiconductor chips, described the government's plans as "quite frankly flaccid".

"It is a long way from addressing the needs of UK chipmakers," he said. "The headline figure the government has put out for the whole industry is less than what it would cost to establish a basic microchip fabrication plant, as quoted by others before, and now in reality the UK's capital commitment is nothing but a rounding error in this industry."

The government intends to build international partnerships to ensure supplies of components, help to fund skills, and focus on Britain's areas of expertise. These include design, research and development and sophisticated compound semiconductors built in places such as Cambridge and south Wales. An advisory panel of experts will be appointed to look at growing the industry and playing to its strengths.

A spokesman said there was a "significant step change in the attention that the government is paying" to semiconductors, with a 20-year vision for the sector. Rishi Sunak made the funding announcement at the G7 summit in Japan, where he is discussing collaboration on supplies of technology.

"By increasing the capabilities and resilience of our world-leading semiconductor industry, we will grow our economy, create jobs and stay at the forefront of technological breakthroughs," he said.

A shortage of semiconductors during the pandemic halted manufacturing in some sectors and caused a scarcity of electronic goods, raising awareness of their critical importance. Britain's tech industry has been waiting for a strategy to be laid out since the autumn. The delays had led some to warn that the UK's status in the sector was at risk.

Julian David, chief executive of techUK, which represents the industry, said that time was now of the essence. "Given the delays to this strategy being produced, if we delay the implementation we risk falling further behind in the race to secure a place in this valuable sector. Strategic allocation of the funds is now of utter importance."

DAVID M BENETT/GETTY IMAGES



Good call Sir Charles Dunstone, the Carphone Warehouse and TalkTalk founder, pictured with his wife Celia, has welcomed the "stable" leadership of Rishi Sunak. Dunstone made the comments on Times Radio as he discussed a deal to sell Purplebricks, the online estate agent, to a rival that he backs for £1. Page 38

AI as big as the internet, says BT boss

Alex Ralph
Chief Business Correspondent

Artificial intelligence is set to be "as big as the internet and mobile phones", the boss of BT has predicted, as Britain's biggest telecoms group announced plans to cut up to 55,000 jobs by the end of the decade, partly due to the emerging technology.

Philip Jansen, BT's chief executive, said the FTSE 100 company would be a "huge beneficiary" of AI, but became the latest to warn that it needed tighter regulation.

"Generative AI is a huge leap forward. Yes, it has risks and we've got to be very careful, but it's going to be as big as the internet and as big as mobile phones. This is a massive change, but it will take a bit of time," he said.

"The positive part of it is there will be loads of new services, new applications, new innovation, new products that will emerge as a result of this new AI, and that's new jobs."

However, BT plans to cut between 40,000 and 55,000 jobs by the end of the decade, up to 42 per cent of its 130,000 workforce. This includes about 25,000 roles related to BT coming towards the end of its £15 billion full-fibre broadband infrastructure build. The project targets 25 million premises in the UK by the end of 2026.

About 10,000 roles are also being lost to the increasing adoption of automation and digitalisation from new technologies, such as AI.

Jansen, 56, who was speaking alongside BT's mixed full-year results, said technologies such as digital assistants would allow customers to "interact with us in a more seamless way". He added: "The opportunities are enormous and it's a really positive move."

Jansen said the plans would modernise and save money but the shares fell by 7½p, or 5 per cent, to 140¾p in London on a weaker-than-expected cash flow outlook for the year as BT utilised government tax breaks from the budget to invest in full-fibre.

BT boss pulls the plug, pages 36-37

Need to know

1 New rules to tackle the threat from artificial intelligence may be introduced amid concern in government that Britain's existing regulation is too lax. Rishi Sunak said the approach would "evolve" to keep pace with the technology after warnings that AI could be used to spread disinformation and cause large-scale job losses. **Page 1**

2 The era of huge rises in house prices is ending because of working from home, rising interest rates and slower growth in population, David Miles, an economist at the Office for Budget Responsibility, said. **Page 10**

3 Jeremy Hunt has offered Jaguar Land Rover, which is owned by the Indian conglomerate Tata, half a billion pounds in government subsidies not to build a new electric battery "gigafactory" abroad. The Treasury has drawn up incentives including a further £300 million for Tata to upgrade its Port Talbot steelworks. **Page 10**

4 Southern Water's chief executive has become the fifth leader of a water company to give up their bonus over sewage pollution. The move by Lawrence Gosden is a victory for the Times Clean It Up campaign and means that half of the sector's leaders in England have waived bonuses. **Page 16**

5 Russia's former first minister for the economy has predicted that western sanctions will push the country into a financial crisis next year. Andrey Nechayev, 70, told businessmen that while McDonald's could be replaced by Russian pancakes, "high-tech products can't" and that Russia had exceeded its planned budget deficit for 2023. **Page 30**

6 Up to £1 billion will be invested in the microchip industry over the next decade as part of the government's long-delayed semiconductor strategy. The Department for Science, Industry & Technology said that the UK would never be a superpower in the sector because of the expense of building semiconductor factories. **Page 35**

7 Artificial intelligence is set to be "as big as the internet and mobile phones", the boss of BT has predicted, as Britain's biggest telecoms group announced plans to cut up to 55,000 jobs by the end of the decade. **Page 35**

8 Consumer confidence in the UK has continued its steady recovery since last year's record lows. GfK's closely watched survey of consumer sentiment rose for the fourth month in a row in May by three points to -27, extending a modest improvement since the start of the year. **Page 38**

9 Plans to bury some of Britain's carbon dioxide emissions under the seabed have moved a step closer to reality with the provisional award of 20 new carbon storage licences by the oil and gas regulator. **Page 42**

10 National Grid said it is not to blame for long delays connecting power projects to Britain's electricity network, insisting that it is simply following rules set by Ofgem. **Page 43**

BT boss to pull the plug on up to 55,000 jobs

Alex Ralph
Chief Business Correspondent

While BT has been investing £15 billion in bringing full-fibre broadband to 25 million premises by the end of 2026, its chief executive has promised to "build like fury".

Yesterday, as Britain's biggest telecoms group said that it had reached 41 per cent of its target, Philip Jansen looked towards the end of the costly project and outlined plans to cut up to 42 per cent of the company's workforce by the end of the decade.

While Jansen, 56, vowed to work "with our union partners" to create a "leaner business with a brighter future", the prospect of job cuts of between 40,000 and 55,000 risks stoking anger among its unionised workforce, who have been building the faster and more reliable broadband network over the past five years.

John Ferrett, national secretary of Prospect, which represents BT managers, said the union was "deeply concerned by the scale of these cuts" and demanded a meeting with Jansen.

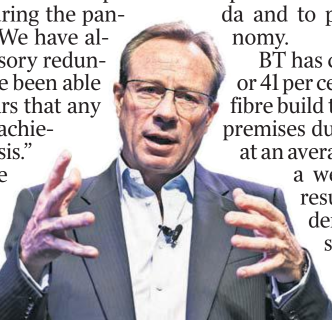
"Announcing such a huge reduction in this way will be very unsettling for workers who did so much to keep the country connected during the pandemic," Ferrett said. "We have always opposed compulsory redundancies in BT and have been able to ensure over the years that any reductions have been achieved on a voluntary basis."

A spokesman for the Communication Workers Union, which recently came to an agreement with Royal Mail over a protracted industrial dispute, said: "The introduction of new technologies across the company, along with the completion of the fibre infrastructure build replacing the copper network, was always going to result in less labour costs for the company in the coming years.

"However, we have made it categorically clear to BT that we want to retain as many direct labour jobs as possible and that any reduction should come from sub-contractors in the first instance and natural attrition."

BT is the former state monopoly that was privatised in 1984 under Margaret Thatcher's government and whose services include the EE mobile network, Openreach broadband and the BT Sport joint venture. The FTSE 100 company employs about 130,000 people, including about 30,000 contractors. The "bulk" of the cuts will come in the UK.

Jansen, a former chief executive of Worldpay who has been boss of BT since 2019, has been a driving force behind the government-supported full-fibre project, which has been championed by politicians and bosses as important to the "levelling up" agenda and to power the digital economy.



Philip Jansen wants to create a "leaner business with a brighter future"

BT has completed 10.3 million, or 41 per cent of its 25 million full-fibre build target, passing 702,000 premises during its fourth quarter at an average build rate of 54,000 a week, updated full-year results show. Customer demand in full-fibre is said to be "extremely strong" with orders in its last financial year up 70 per cent year-on-year and the take-up rate growing to 30.4 per cent.



Completion of the build means BT will incur significantly lower costs, boosting its balance sheet, Jansen said. About 15,000 of the job losses will come from tapering BT's full-fibre build.

Jansen said that the new networks were also much easier to maintain and repair than BT's older copper-based networks and therefore would require about 10,000 fewer roles. A further 10,000 roles will be cut through the increasing adoption of automation and digitalisation from new technologies, such as AI. About 5,000 jobs are being cut through restructuring, including combining BT's enterprise unit with its global business to create a new division called BT Business, which the company announced in December. This will save about £100 million a year by 2025, in part through cutting management and support roles and product portfolios.

Jansen said the job cuts, which span roles including engineers and customer service, would come from employing fewer contractors, "natural attrition and re-skilling". The announcement came two days after Vodafone, one of

Restaurant Group revolt worsens

Dominic Walsh, Ben Martin

The investor revolt at The Restaurant Group intensified yesterday when the hedge fund leading the rebellion accused the Wagamama operator of excluding "certain" shareholders from key information before next week's annual meeting.

Oasis Management Company, which has used its 12.3 per cent stake to take issue with TRG's remuneration, financial performance and other matters, has written to Ken Hanna, the quoted company's chairman, expressing its "deep concern regarding the equal treatment of shareholders".

The letter claims that Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS), the proxy shareholder advisory group, was made aware of a commitment by TRG to review the remuneration policy, but this had "not been (nor has it subsequently been) made public by the company".

As a result, Oasis said it would be voting against both Ken Hanna and Andy Hornby, the chief executive, at Tuesday's meeting, as well as the various remuneration-related resolutions.

A TRG spokesman said: "As you will have seen from our recent trading update, the market's reaction and upgrades from the analysts, we will let our numbers do the talking."



Another company that faced an investor backlash was St James's Place, Britain's biggest wealth manager, with 22.15 per cent of shareholders who voted at its annual meeing on Thursday, rejecting its pay report into executive remuneration last year.

The revolt came after ISS raised concerns that executives at the business had enjoyed unwarranted windfall gains from stock awards granted three years ago, when the company's share price briefly slumped amid the Covid pandemic.

St James's Place said it was "committed to continuing our engagement with shareholders to understand the views of those who voted against [the pay report] and will consult with them over the next few months".

Sixteen per cent of the votes submitted at the annual meeting of Next were cast against the pay policy for its top executives. One in 20 votes opposed last year's remuneration report, which handed a £4.4 million pay deal to chief executive Baron Wolfson of Aspley Guise.

More than one in five votes were cast against the re-election of the chairman Michael Roney.

● Lloyds Banking Group has come under pressure from unions for holding trials of changes to its hybrid working policy, accusing the bank of discriminating against working parents, women and carers.

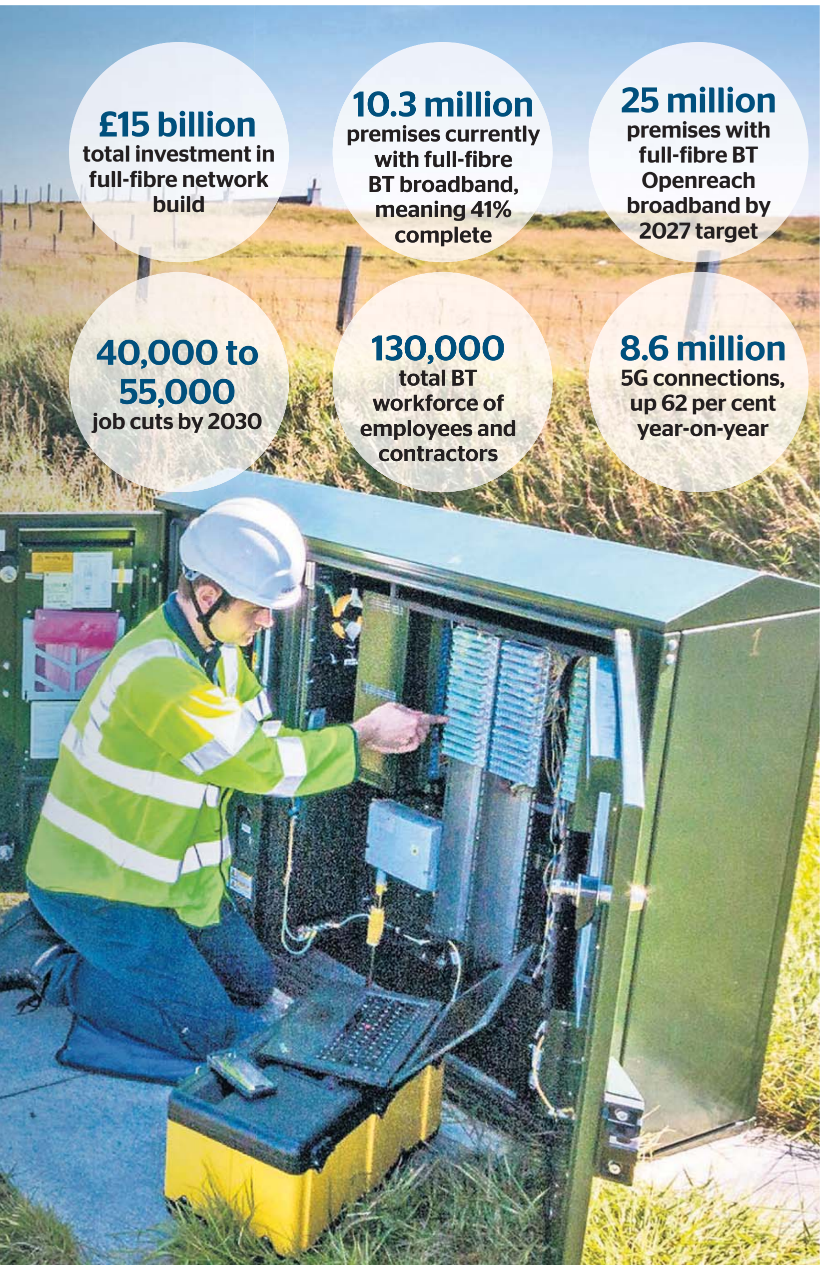
Vistry to revisit pay plans after investor anger

James Hurley

Vistry, the listed housebuilder, has indicated that it will reconsider its pay plans after suffering a shareholder revolt.

Almost half of shareholders of the Bovis Homes owner voted against its remuneration report at its annual meeting yesterday, prompting the FTSE 250 company to say that it would consult with backers to "fully understand their concerns".

In the run up to the meeting, the proxy agencies ISS and Glass Lewis had advised shareholders to vote against the company's pay policy after Vistry's board eased the criteria for long-term



BT's telecoms competitors, said that it was cutting 11,000 roles over three years as its new chief executive hurries to turn around the struggling company.

Vodafone's cuts, which will be partly in London and Newbury, as well as overseas, amount to about 12 per cent of its 90,0000 global workforce.

Despite the promise of lower costs in the future, shares in BT fell by 5 per cent, or 7½p, to 140¾p on the London Stock Exchange.

Free cash flows (FCF) fell to £1.3 billion for the year to the end of March, at the lower end of BT's guidance range, and are expected to be £1.1 billion to £1.2 billion in its new financial year.

Analysts at Barclays said: "We expect a negative share price reaction on the lower FCF." The lower cash flows were due to BT investing the gains from the government's capital allowances regime announced at the budget, the company said.

Group revenue fell 1 per cent to £20.7 billion, with growth in Openreach more than offset by decline in the other units. Profit before tax fell 12 per cent to £1.7 billion.

Tempus, page 44

Royal Mail posts £1bn loss in year of strikes

James Hurley

Royal Mail sank to a £1.04 billion loss, its parent International Distributions Services said, after a year marred by strikes.

The letters and parcels operator posted an annual adjusted operating loss of £419 million and IDS wrote down the value of the business by £539 million.

The results for the wider group, which includes Royal Mail UK and GLS, its international operation, were slightly less gloomy as IDS reported an adjusted operating loss of £71 million for the year ended March 26, compared with a profit of £758 million a year earlier. Analysts had expected a loss of about £114 million.

The company said the losses at Royal Mail had been caused by postal strikes over pay, inability to deliver the benefits of planned productivity improvements, lower test kit volumes as the pandemic receded and a weaker online retail market. It said this had been "partly offset" by cuts to the business in the second half of the year.

A total of 18 days of strikes by Royal Mail workers between August and December cost the parcels and postal company more than £200 million.

Across the group, IDS reported a pre-tax loss of £676 million, having posted a profit of £662 million last year. The company reported an overall operating loss of £748 million. Revenue across the group fell 5 per cent to £12.04 billion, down from £12.7 billion. The group said that it was targeting an adjusted operating profit in this financial year.

It is looking for a replacement for Simon Thompson, who announced his departure as Royal Mail chief executive last week, saying that it was the right time for the company to move forward under new leadership. Ever since taking the top job in 2021, Thompson had been under pressure over strikes and has faced criticism from MPs who accused him of not giving "wholly accurate" answers to parliament about the company's treatment of staff.

His decision to leave came after Royal Mail's deal last month with the Communication Workers Union, which could end the dispute, although union members are still to vote on it.

bonus payments. Greg Fitzgerald, its chief executive, was paid £2.48 million last year, £551,000 of which came from the bonus. The directors Nigel Keen and Katherine Innes-Ker reportedly quit the board in March in protest at plans put forward by a group of Vistry's American shareholders, including Inclusive Capital, to implement a lucrative "Jeff Fairburn-style" pay deal that tied executives' bonuses to its share price. Fairburn, the former boss of the rival builder Persimmon, famously banked an £82 million bonus in 2018.

Just over 47 per cent of shareholders voted against Vistry's remuneration report. Its board said: "We acknowledge that the advisory vote on the directors' remuneration report was passed with 52.92 per cent. As such, we... will consult with our shareholders over the course of the next few months so that we can fully understand their concerns and decide on appropriate next steps."

The business said it expected to make a pre-tax profit "in excess of £450 million" during the financial year. This would be an increase from just over £418 million in 2022-23. Shares closed up 4.48 per cent at 850½p.

Chief executives are not superheroes, says Walmsley

Alex Ralph

She is one of Britain's top executives, who rubs shoulders with world leaders, was honoured for services to industry and runs a drugs company saving thousands of lives. But Dame Emma Walmsley does not think she — or any other chief executive — has superpowers.

In a rare public discussion on leadership style, the boss of GSK said it was "important to recognise as a leader that you're not some kind of all-powerful superhero that has the answers to everything. I've never believed in that and sometimes I think it's unfortunate how chief executives are set in that way."

In the discussion with Octavius Black, the Old Etonian co-founder of MindGym, Walmsley, said she had "never, ever woken up, wherever it is in the world, and thought, 'Gosh I feel powerful' ... It's just not what I feel ... Being the leader is how you unlock the individual possibilities but also the team's collective possibilities".

GSK, one of the UK's two big pharma companies, employs about 69,400 people and operates in more than 80 markets. Walmsley, 53, who has been chief executive since 2017 and is also a non-executive director of Microsoft, said she has to be "really careful" to manage her energy and its impact.

"One of the things that happens when you're in a leadership job, not just as a CEO, for all of us, is this consciousness of the impact that you have [on others]. Whether you're standing on a stage in a large boardroom or you're in a one-on-one with somebody, the transfer of energy you give, whether you come in a bit tired off a plane, you can lift someone, you can inspire them, you can clarify them, you can reassure them, you have to listen really carefully."

Tech needs to learn a simpler language



BUSINESS COMMENTARY *Patrick Hosking*

Timid, unimaginative and risk-averse? Investors in Britain have been repeatedly criticised in recent weeks by policymakers and entrepreneurs for not backing the promising high-growth companies of the future.

No one at Gresham House Energy Storage Fund got the memo. This innovative listed green-energy vehicle seems to have had no trouble at all, raising £608 million from investors in eight capital-raisings over five years and it was at it again on Thursday, announcing plans to tap them for another £80 million (report, page 42).

The company builds and runs electricity storage projects across the UK, which buy power from the grid when it is cheap, store it for a few hours in shipping containers packed with batteries, and sell it back for a higher price.

The battery technology may not be very exciting but the process is highly innovative. It helps to tackle the huge problem of intermittency — the unreliability of alternative energy sources, such as wind. It also helps in the crucial business of stabilising the frequency of electricity in the grid.

The latest cash raise is to fund a new generation of UK battery storage sites and make a first foray into America. The fund has the advantage of paying a dividend, but its success in raising capital for an activity with little track record gives the lie to the easy generalisation that UK investors just won't disgorge. They will, but they, not unreasonably, need to be persuaded.

That means firstly explaining to investors what the company does. With a few exceptions, technology entrepreneurs can be terrible at communicating to non-experts, which most investors, both retail and institutional, are. A blizzard of acronyms and jargon does not constitute an investment case.

It means, secondly, having some kind of simple underlying narrative to persuade the waverers. Gresham's argument that while renewable energy generation is now mainstream and still growing like mad, the energy storage sector remains tiny and has huge catching up to do, is potent.

Thirdly, it means acknowledging the risks and addressing them. Investors are happy to shoulder risk once they understand it. Gresham's double diversification into the US and solar is undoubtedly a gamble, and it admits it. By contrast, the relentlessly optimistic tone used by some high-growth businesses is seen as a red flag. And the assumption by some tech stars that they are doing investors a favour by letting them sink money into their ventures is even more of a turn-off.

At least some of the tech sector's difficulty in raising capital is self-inflicted.

Wrong call by BT?

If Philip Jansen wanted his announcement about job cuts to overshadow disappointing results, the tactic worked. The BT chief's plan to get rid of 40,000 to 55,000 roles out of 129,000 over the next seven years certainly attracted attention. These are huge numbers. The completion of the roll-out of the fibre network explains the elimination of 15,000 of those roles. Another 10,000 will go because engineers won't be needed to maintain and coax new life out of the creaking copper wire system. A further 10,000 will go because of increased automation and digitisation: BT's chatbot "Amy" is set to put many contact centre workers out of work. And at least 5,000 will go as BT weeds out duplication in areas ranging from finance to human resources.

Technological progress does not play out steadily. It comes in bursts. Right now, BT and many other large employers are having to grapple with the implications. AI, in particular, is capturing imaginations in the boardroom, while ringing alarm bells on the shop floor and in middle management: BT is the latest to claim that AI-generated responses to customer queries are producing higher satisfaction scores than its own people.

BT's wages and contractors bill is £6 billion a year or so. If it can really slash it by 40 per cent without denting service levels or revenues, that would deliver a huge boost to its bottom line. But analysts were unimpressed. They were far more worried about the speeding up of the fibre roll-out, which will dent cash flow in the short run. The shares dipped by 5 per cent.

No one yet believes the jam tomorrow story. Jansen, now in his fifth year in the job, is highly unlikely to still be in post in 2030 either to celebrate his far-sightedness or to explain where he went wrong.

EasyJet flies again

The last of the pandemic-related restrictions on foreign travel in Europe ended more than a year ago. The price of aviation fuel peaked last June. The headwinds pounding the aviation sector are now well past their worst.

The flight path steered by easyJet's Johan Lundgren is starting to win some respect (report, page 41). He has made a success of selling more ancillary services to passengers, however maddening it may be to click repeated "no thanks" buttons to buy a basic no-frills ticket. He is proving more nimble in axing old routes and starting new ones, while his newish holidays division is proving a stand-out winner so far.

The easyJet share price has almost doubled to 528p since the low point of last October, climbing past the symbolic 410p at which Lundgren raised £1.2 billion from shareholders in 2021. It has yet to reach the 703p level of an earlier emergency capital call after the widespread grounding of planes at the start of lockdown. Only if and when it recovers that altitude will airsick shareholders consider easyJet properly airborne again.

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Alistair Osborne is away

Business

Consumer confidence still on the rise

Mehreen Khan Economics Editor

Consumer confidence in the UK has continued its steady recovery since last year's record lows, as households have been buoyed by a stronger-than-expected economy.

GfK's closely watched survey of consumer sentiment rose for the fourth month in a row in May by three points to -27, extending a modest improvement since the start of the year. Consumer sentiment slumped to a record low of -49 after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine last year when energy prices and inflation spiralled.

The 2,000 surveyed participants were more optimistic about all parts of their personal finances, from their outlook over the next 12 months to their ability to make major purchases.

Joe Staton, client strategy director at GfK, said the survey reflected "a stronger underlying financial picture across the UK than many would think".

Staton said: "It's good to see further improvement in how people view their personal finances in the next 12 months with a robust five-point jump to -8.

"This measure most keenly reflects our hopes and fears for the coming year and it underpins our ability to spend on goods and services that drive our economy."



Consumer spending has been better than most forecasters expected this year, as government subsidies to cap energy bills and strong employment growth has helped support demand across the economy. The economy grew by 0.1 per cent in the first quarter and is on course to dodge a recession in 2023 despite the relatively weak growth performance. A recession is marked by two consecutive quarters of contracting growth.

The boost in household sentiment comes despite food prices increasing by 19.1 per cent this year

May's jump in household sentiment defies fears over rising interest rates dampening growth and comes amid a backdrop of persistent double-digit inflation. The Bank of England acknowledge last week that its bumper interest rate rises were slow to impact households that had taken out fixed-rate mortgages and had yet to renew their loans at higher rates.

The improvement in household sentiment comes as food prices have surged by 19.1 per cent this year, heaping pressure on consumers struggling with the cost of living for basic goods.

Linda Ellett, UK head of consumer markets, retail and leisure at KPMG, said the rising cost of rents and borrowing would dictate household spending behaviour for the rest of the year.

"Essential costs continue to dictate whether consumers need to take steps to save money elsewhere in their budget," Ellett said. "For example, so far this year, a third of consumers that KPMG surveyed say they have switched to cheaper retailers.

"Certainty about essential costs has and will continue to dictate savings and spending plans for the rest of 2023. One third of consumers with savings that KPMG spoke to say they are using them to help meet their essential costs. But among the remaining two-thirds, appetite exists to make major purchases during the rest of this year."

Watchdog bares its teeth at vet takeovers

The competition watchdog has warned that a string of vet practice acquisitions by Medivet could lead to higher prices or poorer services for pet owners across England and Northern Ireland (Helen Cahill writes).

The Competition & Markets Authority has ruled Medivet's purchase of 12 sites could lead to a lessening of competition and that it may need to launch a more in-depth investigation.

Medivet is one of largest veterinary groups in the UK, with more than 400 sites.

The CMA has become concerned about consolidation in the sector and the impact it could have on the 17 million households with pets. The watchdog's intervention with Medivet represents its fourth investigation into the sector over the past two years as large groups buy up independent operators.

Medivet was acquired by a US private equity firm in September 2021 as it became clear that veterinary businesses would remain popular as pandemic restrictions eased. CVC Capital Partners bought the company from Inflexion Private Equity for more than £1 billion.

Medivet's string of acquisitions first came under investigation from the CMA in December 2022. The regulator complained that Medivet had failed to properly inform it about the acquisitions that took place over a 12-month period from September 2021. The business acquired sites in West Sussex, Greater London, Oxfordshire, Co Antrim, Co Durham, Cornwall, Hertfordshire, Lancashire, Leicestershire and North Lincolnshire.

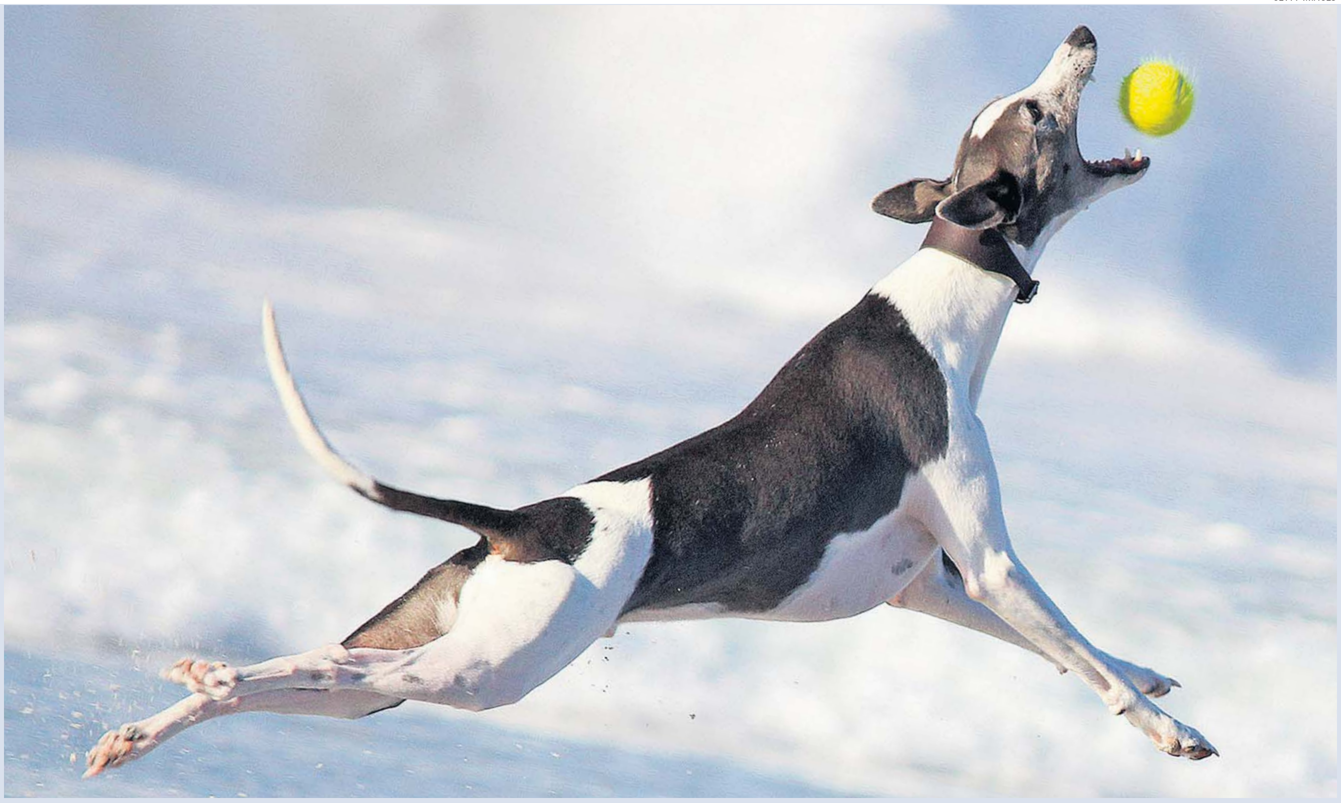
Sorcha O'Carroll, senior director of mergers at the CMA, said: "Particularly while household budgets are already stretched, it's crucial that we ensure continued access to good quality pet care at a fair price.

"We continue to receive concerns that independent vet practices being bought out by a single company could lead to a loss of competition at a local level, resulting in higher prices or lower quality services."

Medivet has been given the all-clear on five of its acquisitions after regulators concluded they would either not harm competition or did not meet statutory requirements for investigation.

A spokeswoman for Medivet said the group was "incredibly disappointed with the CMA's decision on the remaining acquisitions, which we strongly disagree with. We are now considering all our options for these sites."

GETTY IMAGES



The Competition & Markets Authority is concerned that pet owners will face higher prices or lower quality service

Rishi has impressed me, says Dunstone

Helen Cahill

Carphone Warehouse founder Sir Charles Dunstone has described the current Conservative leadership as "stable" as he sets out a plan to rebuild Purplebricks.

Dunstone, who also founded TalkTalk, said he was impressed by Rishi Sunak as prime minister when talking about the deal to buy Purplebricks on Times Radio yesterday.

The government has been seeking to restore its fiscal credibility after Kwasi Kwarteng's mini-budget rocked markets last year.

Dunstone said: "I've been very impressed by the current prime minister. Rishi and Jeremy Hunt [the chancellor], they feel like a very stable, organised, calm couple that have brought some much-needed stability. They were catching a falling knife it felt, weren't they?"

The Labour Party has been seeking support for its growth plans from business leaders as it prepares its manifesto before the next general election.

Sir Keir Starmer pledged to make Labour the party of housebuilding by relaxing planning restrictions and wants to deliver the highest sustained growth of any economy in the G7.

> **£1**
> **What Strike paid for beleaguered Purplebricks this week**
> Source: Purplebricks

Dunstone said: "I mean it's certainly a very different Labour Party than it was at the last election. I haven't met Mr Starmer and I haven't really thought that hard about it to be honest. But I guess we will all have to next year."

Purplebricks has been sold to a rival estate agent backed by Dunstone for just £1 after a collapse in its market value. Its new owner, Strike, will embark on a cost-cutting drive that includes "reducing the employee base" among its 750-strong workforce.

Dunstone is a partner at Strike's joint-main shareholder Freston Venues and said the new group would become a market leader. Strike's management intends to use Purplebricks's brand recognition among consumers to build a value player in the property sector with a low-cost operating model.

Andrew Harrison, chairman of Strike, said yesterday that Purplebricks' team had "lost their way somewhat" but that there was still plenty of demand for cheap estate agency services.

He added: "Nearly every sector you can think of has a really strong value player with double-digit market share, be that Premier Inn in hotels or easyJet in airlines. But you have to have a low-cost operating model."

We are not to blame for high inflation, says Bank

Mehreen Khan

The Bank of England has denied that its ultra-low interest rate policy and mass bond buying helped to stoke inflation and a house-price boom.

The Bank's most senior officials — including Andrew Bailey, the governor — pushed back against suggestions from MPs that more than a decade of near-zero borrowing costs and quantitative easing helped fuel an asset price bubble after 2008.

"The period in which the house price to income ratio rose most was the period of ten years before 2007," Bailey told the Treasury select committee. "That was the period when it rose most substantially. It hasn't done the same thing since then."

House prices could fall as much as 20 per cent by the end of 2024, according to some forecasters, who have warned of the impact of steadily rising mortgage rates. The Bank has raised its benchmark interest rate from 0.1 per cent to 4.5 per cent since December 2021, the fastest tightening in 30 years. It has also begun selling off the £850 billion of UK bonds it bought in phases after the financial crisis of 2008-09 to stimulate growth and lift inflation.

Ben Broadbent, deputy governor, told MPs that the decision to buy bonds in 2020 was not the reason why inflation surged to 40-year highs last year. "The idea that this is the cause of double-digit [inflation] is not well-supported," he said.

New figures out next week are expected to show headline inflation dropped to about 9.7 per cent in April from the 10.1 per cent recorded in March.

Harry Wallop



The failure of schools on financial education is a missed opportunity

I have a very clear childhood memory from when I was about seven of asking my mother what people did at university. She answered that they learnt grown-up stuff, the sort of things you are not taught at school. I thought quite hard and alighted on the most baffling thing adults did that I would need one day to master.

"You mean, how to use a cheque book?"

"Something like that," she answered.

It turned out that this was not what universities taught you but in those pre-debit card days (astonishing to think that they were introduced only in 1987, after the invention of CDs), my mother often used a cheque book to pay for her groceries in Sainsbury's and I was genuinely fearful of whether I would ever understand such a byzantine payment system.

Schools did not teach it either. Indeed, I left school with only a hazy understanding of finance, of the difference between a debit card and a credit card and why interest rates going up from 10 per cent to 12 per cent in a single day might be catastrophic. I knew all about Weimar Germany's hyperinflation but I am not sure I could link that to Norman Lamont increasing my parents' mortgage.

In recent decades there has been a growing awareness of the importance of children understanding money, not least in an era of buy now, pay later companies, cryptocurrency scams and student loans, which have ensured that millions will start their adult life in debt. Partly thanks to campaigning by the indefatigable Martin Lewis, financial education was introduced on to the national curriculum in 2014. Job done. Kids now will understand cheque books.

Or so I thought. Recently I was phoned out of the blue by a 16-year-old, Gabriella (she doesn't want me to use her surname), who said that she had written a report that she would like to send me. It was a nine-page document: Financial Education in Schools, which not only looked pretty professional but was full of whizzy charts.

She had surveyed 66 fellow secondary school pupils, not just from her own Lincolnshire school but from around the country, recruiting them via a Reddit forum. Now, I am sure that the British Polling Council might have something to say about Gabriella's survey size but for a GCSE pupil she has done a grand job at capturing what children think: 64 per cent said they did not feel that their school's financial education would set them up sufficiently for life as an independent adult. More than half said that financial education was rarely mentioned. "Worse still, 38 per cent said it has never been taught at their school," she wrote.



What is going on? It turns out that my informant is spot-on. Nearly a decade after it became mandatory for secondary school children to be taught the basics of budgeting and "becoming a critical consumer", many schools just do not have the time, resources or inclination to do so. Plus, academies and free schools, which now make up a third of schools in England, can opt out. They are meant to teach it as part of PSHE (personal, social, health and economic) classes, but the E bit tends to get forgotten amid lessons on LGBTQ issues, domestic violence and consent: important topics, no doubt, but possibly less pressing on a daily basis than why a graduate — thanks to student loans — can end up with a marginal tax rate of 57 per cent. And, frankly, why are they still in class when they should be rioting in the streets at the outrageous unfairness of it all?

The all-party parliamentary group on financial education for young people published a damning report this year. More than 200 secondary school teachers were surveyed. One question was: "Do you know if your school is required to teach financial education as part of the curriculum?", to which 44 per cent answered "yes", 41 per cent answered "no" and 15 per cent said "don't know".

A worrying number on the front line are clueless about their legal requirements.

Many will argue that it is unfair to ask a school to teach these things. As with sex, relationships and careers advice, your parents should be the individuals you turn to but many parents are fairly incompetent themselves when it comes to finance.

Look at me. I used to work for Investors Chronicle but I signed up my youngest child, now 11, to GoHenry, a pocket money app. Not only is it far easier than having to find spare change in a cashless era, but in theory it teaches kids budgeting. In practice, however, it charges the parent £2.99 a month for the service and does not offer the child any interest or reward for keeping their money in a GoHenry account. So if the kid receives only £2 a week pocket money (yes, I am also a skinflint), the app's fees are the equivalent of a 34.5 per cent APR, a level I realised only a full year after signing him up and one that many loan companies would hesitate before charging. Read the Ts&Cs, kids.

I asked Gabriella why she felt strongly enough about financial education to write a 3,000-word report. "I have a friend in my year, who is 15, and she doesn't know that banks charge you interest on loans. She thinks they just give you the money. In my eyes, that's a complete failure."

Interestingly, Gabriella is concerned that she might be teased for being "weird" for her enthusiasm for finance. Which is possibly the most damning evidence you need that schools need to take this topic seriously. Otherwise we will have brought up a generation who may know of $e=MC^2$, but fail to heed Einstein's far more important declaration that compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world. "He who understands it, earns it; he who doesn't, pays it."

Harry Wallop is a consumer journalist and broadcaster. Follow him on Twitter @hwallop

Sustainable investing hit by cost of living crisis

Ben Martin Banking Editor

The popularity of sustainable investing has taken a hit from the cost of living crisis as Britons prioritise boosting their returns, according to a survey.

A poll by the UK arm of Charles Schwab, the American broker, has found that the proportion of retail investors who were unconcerned if their investments underperformed as long as they were sustainable had fallen to 47 per cent in February, from 55 per cent in late 2021.

Similarly, those who considered environmental, social or governance factors when putting money into a new investment slid by six percentage points to 38 per cent. Willingness to pay extra fees for ESG investments also declined to 50 per cent from 58 per cent.

Away from sustainability, the survey also showed that British investors now preferred the United States as a place to invest rather than the UK, which is likely to add to worries that London is declining as a financial centre. Sixty-six per cent of respondents said the US was a good area to invest, up two points on late 2021, compared with the UK on 61 per cent, down nine points.

Richard Flynn, managing director at Charles Schwab UK, said: "With the need to maximise returns seemingly growing in importance amid the cost of living crisis, fewer investors seem to be factoring in ESG-related considerations into their investment decisions.

"The return on investment is increasingly being called into question, with the fees often associated with sustainable investments now actively discouraging investors in this current climate. It will be interesting to see how any economic rebound and reduction in inflation impacts this attitude in the coming years."

There has been a boom in products marketed as having green credentials. There are worries that some firms are "greenwashing" by making exaggerated or misleading claims about sustainability, denting confidence in the industry. The Charles Schwab poll suggests the tougher economic environment poses another potential setback for the popularity of ESG investments.

It surveyed 1,000 adult retail investors in Britain across all age groups.

The poll found that older investors were less likely to focus on ESG, with only 23 per cent of Baby Boomers saying they always, or usually, considered sustainability. That compared with 49 per cent of millennials and 50 per cent of Gen Z investors.



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Business

Burberry boss bemoans tourism tax 'own goal'

Isabella Fish Retail Editor

The boss of Burberry has warned that the lack of tax-free shopping for overseas tourists is making Britain less competitive after sales in continental Europe and a rebound in China drove up profits.

Jonathan Akeroyd, chief executive of the luxury British brand best known for its check and raincoats, said visitors had been returning to mainland Europe, mainly Paris, Milan and Barcelona, in greater numbers than London, putting the UK at a competitive disadvantage.

Akeroyd said sales to tourists had risen 19 per cent in the UK in the three months to April but they had more than doubled in Paris and were up 43 per cent in Milan. Total sales rose 28 per cent in the UK for the year, as locals and visitors from Europe, the US, Asia and the Middle East spent more, but Akeroyd noted that there had been a big surge in UK tourists spending in Europe "which is quite telling".

His comments came after Gerry Murphy, chairman of Burberry, told Rishi Sunak that a decision to remove VAT refunds in 2020 had hurt the economy and was a "spectacular own goal".

Burberry reported a 10 per cent rise in sales to £3.1 billion in the year to April 1, with underlying sales growth rising to 16 per cent in the final quarter of the year from 7 per cent across the year as a whole, thanks to a resurgence in China, its largest market, after pandemic restrictions were eased earlier this year. Annual pre-tax profits rose 24 per cent to £634 million.

The company held firm on its medium-term revenue targets, saying that it was "mindful" of the global economic backdrop.

Burberry was founded in 1856 in Basingstoke by Thomas Burberry, who created the gabardine waterproof fabric used in its famous trench coats.

Its results follow Daniel Lee's first collection as creative director at London Fashion Week in February as well as the creation of a new logo and campaign and the release of a new version of the trench coat.

Akeroyd appointed Lee as part of a strategy to regain ground against rivals such as LVMH and Chanel. The decision has been seen as part of an attempt to refocus the brand on more recognisably British designs rather than pursuing a less-distinctive persona with a broader international appeal.

The Burberry boss said that customers and buyers would see the "new creative expression of the brand" start to come through from the next season.

Zainab Atiyyah, an analyst at Third Bridge, said Burberry was "intensifying its efforts to revive its British heritage and elevate international perceptions of its brand. Our experts say that Daniel Lee's inaugural fashion show left industry insiders astounded. This confidence and creativity set his debut collection apart from other luxury brands. These characteristics also resonate well with Chinese consumers."



Nevertheless, the market was left disappointed by Burberry's results, with its share price falling 131p, or 5.2 per cent, to £23.89.

Sophie Lund-Yates, lead equity analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown, said that the maintaining of existing guidance was "a little lacklustre, and investors are also not blind to the fact that significant macroeconomic uncertainty persists … To its credit, Burberry has done a lot to improve its brand and the artistic direction continues to impress."

Tempus, page 44

A Britain of raves, not ravens

Behind the story

Twenty years ago, Burberry's house tartan had reached saturation point among soap stars and on football terraces. Its latest results show that it is for cool kids once again (Harriet Walker writes).

After two decades of deliberately playing down its most recognisable logos — those checks and its knight-on-horseback insignia — the brand's latest designer, the Bradford-born Daniel Lee, has put them at the centre again.

Only a season in, his strategy appears to be working, thanks to the brand's new focus on what it means to buy British in the 21st century.

Lee, 37, recognises that a nostalgic trend cycle is bringing Nineties and Noughties stylings to a new and moneyed international Gen Z audience. For them British culture is raves and bucket hats, not ravens and Buck House.

A recent Burberry advertising campaign has the rapper Kano hanging from a road sign flagging East Ham and the M11, and Shygirl showing off Tudor red roses on her acrylic nails.

Lee is an alchemist when it comes to creating what fashion types call a "brand moment". In his previous role at the Italian brand Bottega Veneta he reinvigorated the label's image from tasteful affluence to eye-wateringly hip. His first, and so far only, catwalk show for Burberry last February has been one of the season's most viewed online.

That collection broadcast its newness from the very first ensemble, parting ways with the familiar neutral shades of tan and replacing them with a palette of deep purple, blue and mustard yellow. On social media existing imagery was wiped and replaced with Lee's own, affectionately authentic, look at modern Britain: urban foxes, swans and Madchester-style imagined vinyl artworks.

Call it Britpop 2.0: Lee's Burberry not only appeals to native youth disaffected with traditional patriotism but is also refreshing how Britain is seen abroad.

China exports set to keep rising after record year

Times Business Reporter

British exports to China are set to keep growing after rising sharply to record levels last year, according to a trade body seeking to bolster UK-Sino economic ties.

The China Britain Business Council (CBBC) predicted a "rapid uptick" in demand for British goods and services now that Beijing has lifted Covid-19 restrictions. A 38 per cent increase in exports to China to £38 billion last year amounted to a "welcome boost to the [UK] economy at a time when many British exporters are struggling," it said.

The rise in exports has coincided with intense scrutiny in Westminster of Britain's relationship with Beijing. Prominent hawks in the Conservative Party, such as Liz Truss, the former prime minister, and Iain Duncan Smith, the former party leader, have accused western countries of "appeasing" China in the face of human rights abuses and threats to Taiwan.

"The latest trade figures show the importance to the UK economy of our exports to China," Andrew Seaton, chief executive of the CBBC, said. "Despite political headwinds, both countries recognise the importance of a mutually beneficial trading relationship."

Seaton cited demand among China's 400 million middle-class consumers as a "key opportunity for UK companies looking for new international markets and business growth", adding: "There is no way to build a global trading Britain without a sensible and healthy trading relationship with the world's second-biggest economy."

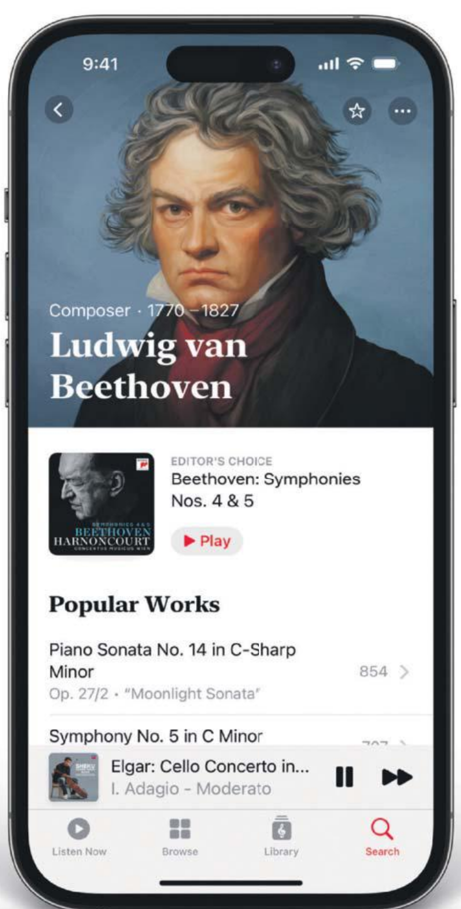
Selling to China has been a "game-changer" for Vitabiotics, the food supplement business, Benji Lamb, its director of China and South Asia, said.

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Aston roars ahead after Geely stake doubles



ASTON MARTIN

Aston Martin Lagonda will gain a "deep understanding" of the Chinese market and an opportunity to access Geely's technology

The Hong Kong-based owner of the Lotus sports car marque is investing £234 million in Aston Martin Lagonda, more than doubling its stake in the brand made famous by James Bond (Dominic Walsh writes).

Zhejiang Geely Holding Group said it had committed to increase its stake in the British sports car-maker to about 17 per cent, making it the third-biggest shareholder in the London-listed group.

Shares in Aston Martin closed up 28¾p, or 12.5 per cent, at 260p.

Geely, which acquired a 7.6 per cent stake in Aston Martin last September, said its increased shareholding would form part of its strategic investment portfolio, which includes long-term equity stakes in global car brands.

As part of the increase in its stake, Geely Holding will be entitled to appoint a non-executive director to the board, as well as appointing a second person as an observer.

Li Shufu, 59, the billionaire chairman of Geely Holding Group, said the deal "reflects our confidence in the company's growth prospects, its technologies and its management team".

Lawrence Stroll, 63, the Canadian billionaire who is executive chairman of Aston Martin, said: "Geely can offer us a deep understanding of the key strategic growth market of China as well as the opportunity to access their range of technologies."

The Chinese group is acquiring about 42 million shares from Yew Tree Consortium, Aston Martin's biggest shareholder, at 335p a share, and subscribing for about 28 million new shares at the same price. The purchase price is a 45 per cent premium to Wednesday's close.

Yew Tree will remain the biggest shareholder with a 21 per cent stake. Aston Martin will receive a cash injection of about £95 million from the subscription.

Geely agreed to a standstill until August next year, under which it will not lift its stake above 22 per cent. Yew Tree has agreed not to increase its stake above 25 per cent.

EasyJet losses narrow as holiday bookings take off for the summer

Dominic Walsh

EasyJet shaved £134 million from its seasonal losses in the first half and upped the full-year guidance on its holiday business as it reported that forward booking trends were returning to normal.

The budget airline, which vies with Ryanair for the top slot in Britain, said it expected easyJet Holidays to make a pre-tax profit of at least £80 million after reporting year-on-year customer growth of more than 200 per cent in the first half. Previous consensus forecasts were pointing to profits of £60 million.

It said its holiday business, which until now had operated only out of the UK, would be starting operations from new markets, the first of which will be Switzerland, for travellers departing early next year.

Although Switzerland would be the first of a number of planned new European holiday markets, Johan Lundgren, 56, the chief executive, said the "big prize" was still the UK, where there was an addressable market of 30 million people compared with only 1.1 million in Switzerland.

"EasyJet's optimised network combined with the strong demand seen for flights and holidays, enhanced revenue capabilities and operational resilience, means we enter the summer with confidence," he said.

Lundgren, formerly deputy chief executive of Tui Group, the tourism operator, said recent research had shown that travel was the "No 1 priority for household discretionary spend" and customers were increasingly choosing low-cost airlines and brands as they sought value for money.

All-inclusive holidays were proving particularly popular due to the "certainty of cost" this provided to customers during the cost of living crisis. He said all-inclusive also provided "tremendous value".

The company said that its holiday business had delivered incremental revenue of £173 million in the six months to March, up from £54 million in the same period last year, contributing to total group revenue of £2.7 billion, up from £1.5 billion this time last year.

200%

Year-on-year customer growth at easyJet Holidays in the first half
Source: easyJet

With the removal of all travel restrictions, passenger revenue in the first half jumped from £985 million to £1.75 billion as the industry bounced back from Covid-19, while ancillary revenue increased from £459 million to £767 million. The total number of passengers carried increased by 41 per cent to 33.1 million on the back of a 25 per cent rise in seats flown to 37.9 million and a 10.2 percentage-point increase in the load factor to 87.5 per cent. Its medium-term target is to grow capacity back to 105 million seats.

Losses before tax and exceptionals narrowed from £545 million to £411 million, in line with guidance for a loss of between £405 million and £425 million. Group headline costs rose by 52 per cent to £3.1 billion because of high fuel costs and inflationary pressures.

During the pandemic there was a shift towards later forward bookings, closer to the date of departure but easyJet said that this was beginning to normalise, which analysts said should improve visibility.

Shares in easyJet closed up 7½p, or 1.5 per cent, at 528p.

De La Rue defies activists with its new chairman

Ben Martin, Alex Ralph

The troubled banknote printer De La Rue risks further friction with an activist shareholder after it picked the former chairman of Dignity funerals as the next head of its board.

Clive Whiley, who is currently also the chairman of Mothercare, has been appointed to the London-listed group with immediate effect and will help to lead efforts to revive the business following a string of profit warnings.

De La Rue has chosen Whiley, 62, to replace Kevin Loosemore despite some shareholders having suggested Nat Rothschild, the City financier, as the next chairman. The banknote printer was forced to search for a new chairman after Crystal Amber, an activist investor that is one of De La Rue's biggest shareholders, tried to oust Loosemore, 64. He stepped down in April before a shareholder vote could be held.

Whiley was himself forced out as executive chairman of Dignity, Britain's biggest listed funerals company, two years ago after a coup by Phoenix Asset Management, its largest shareholder.

Crystal Amber had originally proposed Pepyn Dinandt to replace Loosemore. However, Richard Bernstein, who runs the activist fund, said he would also have been happy for Rothschild, 51, to head the board. Bernstein said that not appointing Rothschild "was a missed opportunity to bring in a proven entrepreneur with a clearly defined strategy and plan of action".

De La Rue declined to comment on whether Rothschild had been considered as a candidate. It is understood that Rothschild was disappointed that talks about the role did not progress.

Based in Hampshire and founded in 1813, De La Rue is a leading supplier of banknotes, polymer substrate and security features to more than half the world's central banks and issuing authorities, but has come under pressure from the declining use of cash. Its shares were worth almost £10 each a decade ago but closed up 2¼p, or 5.6 per cent, at 41¾p last night.

A Mothercare investor said Whiley "is a highly competent, capable and sensible leader". De La Rue said that its board "believes that Clive's breadth and depth of experience and skills are what is required to pilot the business".

Asda 'using threats' to cut pay for staff

Helen Cahill

Asda has been accused of using "fire and rehire" threats to reduce pay for 7,000 staff as it restructures the business before a possible merger with EG Group in the UK.

The supermarket has told thousands of staff they will lose location-based pay supplements and face lower hourly rates for working nights across 39 shops.

The GMB union said the workers could be fired if they did not agree and that the restructuring was intended to help to pave the way for a £12 billion merger with the Issa brothers' UK petrol station business. Asda has its own chain of petrol stations.

Shop staff working on 22-hour contracts will lose £686 a year and staff on 37.5-hour contracts will lose £1,700, the GMB said. Asda has said overall pay will rise as it is increasing hourly rates by 10 per cent to £11.11 an hour in July.

Asda plans to implement the changes in November and is offering compensation to affected staff. It has said location supplements were no longer needed to attract staff to particular shops and that the extra pay was "unfair to other colleagues". An Asda spokesman said the location supplement was "out of line with the wider retail market" and that "no final decision has been taken".

Mohsin and Zuber Issa own Asda with their private equity backers TDR Capital and have built EG Group into a global petrol business with annual revenues of $33 billion. They are considering a deal as a possible solution to the heavy debt burden faced by EG Group.

Moody's has said EG Group faces further credit rating downgrades if the brothers do not sort out its £7 billion debt pile by the end of next month. Most of the debt will mature in 2025.

Business

Green light for 20 carbon storage sites in UK waters

Emily Gosden Energy Editor

Plans to bury some of Britain's carbon dioxide emissions under the seabed have moved a step closer to reality with the provisional award of 20 new carbon storage licences by the oil and gas regulator.

The North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA) said that the sites offered licences could make a "significant contribution" to Britain's goal of storing up to 30 million tonnes of CO_2 each year by 2030 — equivalent to a tenth of Britain's total carbon dioxide emissions in 2021.

The licences, spanning 12,000 square kilometres or an area slightly bigger than Yorkshire, have been offered to 12 companies who applied for them in the first competitive allocation round launched last summer. About half of the licences are for storage in depleted oil or gas fields, while the other half plan to use aquifers.

The winning companies must now apply to the Crown Estate for seabed leases to enable them to proceed with developing the projects, which are likely to hinge on government subsidies.

Not all the winners have been named but Spirit Energy, the gas producer majority owned by Centrica, said it had been offered a storage licence to repurpose the depleted North and South Morecambe gas fields in the Irish Sea.

Chris O'Shea, Centrica chief executive, said: "Morecambe Bay has the ability to become a world-leading carbon storage facility and could see the creation of thousands of jobs."

The other projects are in the North Sea including EnQuest proposals to repurpose the Magnus and Thistle fields, 99 miles northeast of Shetland.

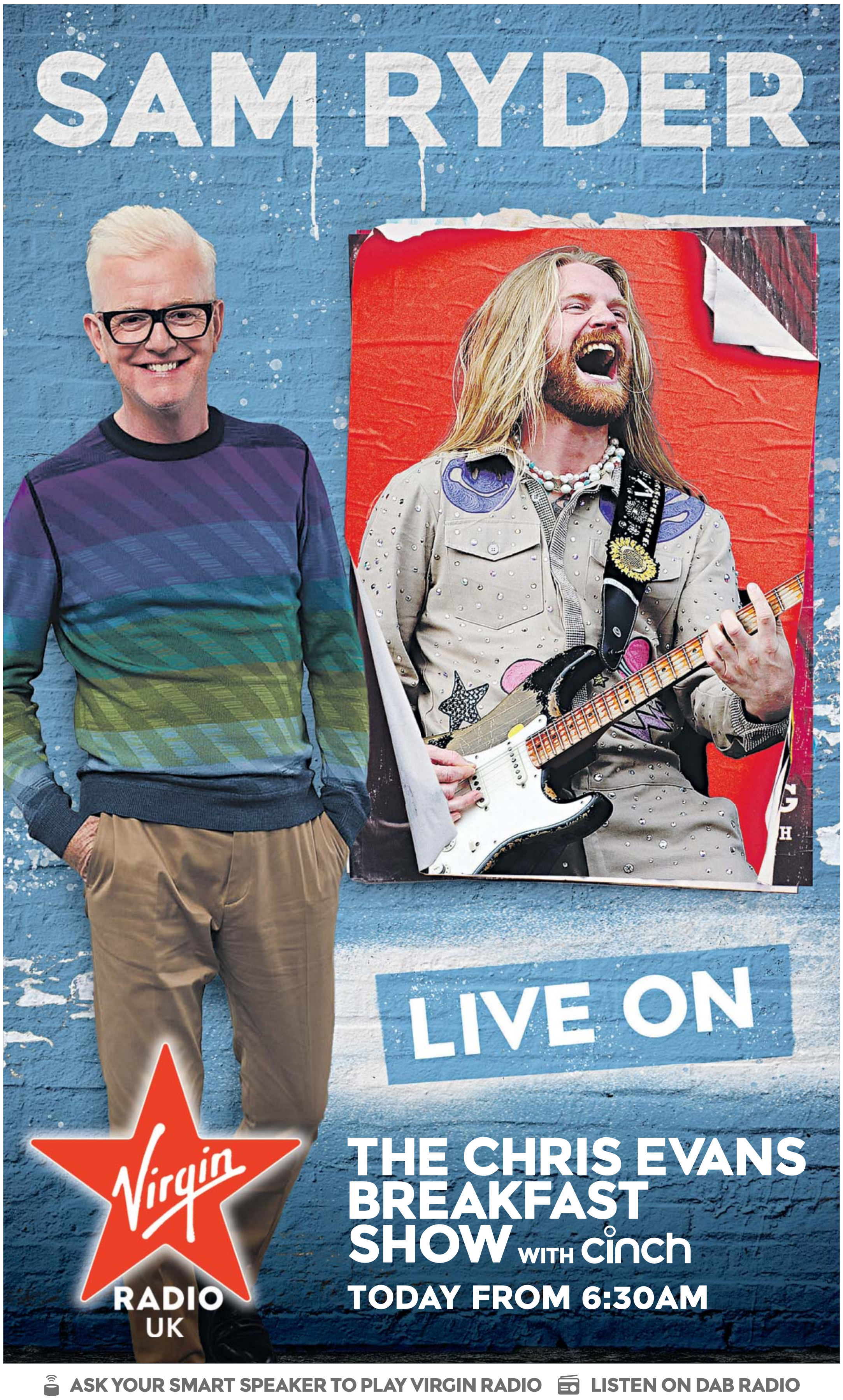
Salman Malik, EnQuest chief financial officer, said: "EnQuest has plans to develop a low-cost carbon megastore that will initially be capable of storing 10 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year. Our vision is that geological formations in this area will ultimately be capable of permanently storing more than one billion tonnes of CO_2."

Carbon capture and storage is regarded as critical to the decarbonisation of heavy industry, although critics worry that the fossil fuel industry is embracing it to prolong the use of oil and gas. The government has set a target of capturing 20 million to 30 million tonnes of CO_2 a year by the end of the decade, equivalent to the annual emissions from 10 million to 15 million cars. It has pledged £20 billion over two decades to support the first projects.

The first two projects chosen for government funding involve capturing emissions from Teesside and storing them in the Endurance saline aquifer in the North Sea, and capturing emissions from the northwest and North Wales and storing them in disused gas fields in the Irish Sea. These projects already have carbon storage licences.

NSTA said that in awarding the new licences it had considered "the need to share offshore space with other users of the seabed such as wind developers and petroleum operations". Stuart Payne, NSTA chief executive, said: "As a nation, we cannot meet our decarbonisation targets without carbon storage."

A unique opportunity, Thunderer, page 26





Future is not so bright as revenue and shares slide

Future's shares have dipped after the Marie Claire and Go.Compare owner warned that profits would be knocked by a drop in readers and digital revenues (Helen Cahill writes).

The FTSE 250 company's share

Gresham aims to raise £80m for battery drive in America

Patrick Hosking

Britain's biggest owner of specialist electricity storage sites is hoping to raise £80 million from investors, partly to finance its first sites in the United States, which will also help it to diversify into solar energy.

Gresham House Energy Storage Fund announced the placing at a price of 155½p, which is a small premium to the latest net asset value per share of 153¾p.

The listed company specialises in building and managing sites that seek to buy power from the grid when prices are low, store it in thousands of purpose-made batteries, and sell it back to the grid for a profit.

Valued at about £850 million, it has 21 working sites in the UK and Ireland with another six under construction.

The new capital will be used to finance a push into Southern California, where the company wants to develop solar farms with co-located battery storage facilities, and also to develop new UK sites.

Ben Guest, manager of the fund, said: "The US is seeing a rapid increase in renewable generation and is expected to see rapid electrification of energy consumption, both of which are boosted by incentives under the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act. We look forward to … establishing a foothold in an attractive new market."

As well as a placing through Jefferies for institutional shareholders, the company is also making a separate share offer to existing retail investors through the Rex platform. The placing closes on May 24, with the results to be announced on May 25.

Guest said that he planned to buy 150,000 new shares personally.

Shares in Gresham House fell by 1.7 per cent, or 2¾p, to 156p.



Future, whose brands include Go.Compare, has warned that its performance will be at the lower end of expectations

price fell by 16 per cent, or 166p, to 880p as it warned that performance would be "towards the bottom end of current market expectations".

The media group said audience numbers would continue to decline and that organic revenue had fallen by 10 per cent to £383.9 million in the six months to March 31. Profit before tax fell by 18 per cent, from £81 million to £66.4 million.

Peel Hunt analysts warned that more downgrades to financial estimates could be on the way. "Future's shares are clearly trading with an assumption that a downgrade was coming," they said. "While we continue to believe the Future model is strong, audience trends can be unpredictable, and until we see a sustained change, there is no guarantee we are at the bottom of the downgrade cycle."

Analysts at Jefferies said Future had delivered a "challenging set of results" and that Jon Steinberg, Future's new chief executive, was under pressure to "articulate a strategy for a return to growth."

Zillah Byng-Thorne, Future's longstanding chief executive, stepped down this year after leading the group for nine years. Her tenure was marked by substantial growth in Future's share price, from 78p to a peak of £39 during the pandemic.

She was credited with turning around the business by prioritising its operations in online shopping and developing technology to allow customers to click on links in articles to purchase products.

Byng-Thorne announced she was stepping down as Future's share price started to fall back again last year. Roddy Davidson, research analyst at Shore Capital, said that Steinberg would need to communicate the company's growth potential to investors "in a manner that his predecessor was latterly unable to do".

Steinberg said: "The macroeconomic environment remains tough but we are well-positioned to continue to outperform the industry."

National Grid blames Ofgem for long delays

Emily Gosden

National Grid has said it is not to blame for long delays connecting power projects to Britain's electricity network, insisting it is simply following rules set by Ofgem and urged the regulator to speed up a proposed overhaul.

The FTSE 100 company's electricity system operator (ESO) division is responsible for managing connections to Britain's high-voltage electricity transmission network, awarding agreements on a "first-come, first-served basis".

It has come under fire as a huge queue of projects has built up, including many "zombie" or speculative proposals, leaving developers with wind, solar and battery projects facing delays of as much as a decade to plug in to the grid. Ofgem, the regulator, this week said that the queuing system "no longer makes sense" and threatened to intervene within two years if National Grid did not make sufficient progress.

However, John Pettigrew, National Grid's chief executive, said that it actively wanted intervention. The company was doing what it could to speed up connections but its hands were tied by Ofgem, which "obliges National Grid to offer a first-come first-served service", he said. "It's a regulatory framework. Sadly we have to follow that process … I can't prioritise one project that's ready over another without breaching my licence." Urging Ofgem to speed up its reform plans, he said: "They're going to take two years to do that review, which is too long."

National Grid derives the majority of its profits from operating regulated energy networks in Britain and America, funded through levies on consumer energy bills.

The company reported that underlying operating profits for the year to the end of March 2023 rose 15 cent to £4.6 billion. It benefited from a full year's contribution from its UK electricity distribution business, acquired part-way through the prior year. It also enjoyed increased profits from its division operating subsea power cables known as "interconnectors".



Many developers are facing waits of up to 10 years to connect to the grid

Adjusted operating profits for interconnectors soared to £355 million, from £135 million a year earlier, thanks to a full year of operations of its North Sea Link with Norway, which started up during the prior year, and from the BritNed cable to the Netherlands, which was out of action for two months the year before. National Grid also benefited from an insurance payout following a fire in 2021 that affected one of its interconnectors with France.

In recent years National Grid has conducted a strategic "pivot" to focus more on electricity than gas, offloading most of its interests in Britain's gas pipeline networks. Its remaining interests include the Grain liquefied natural gas terminal in Kent, which benefited from the scramble to import more gas to help replace Russian supplies to Europe.

Pettigrew said that National Grid would publish its initial view next month of the energy security outlook for the coming winter but he believed that electricity margins — power plant capacity relative to likely demand — were probably going to be similar to last year, when Britain had been "very lucky" as it had a mild winter.

Algeria deal fuels Petrofac recovery

Emily Gosden

Shares in Petrofac jumped by almost 14 per cent after the troubled oil services group landed a contract in Algeria worth at least $1 billion.

Petrofac said it was leading a consortium that had been conditionally awarded a $1.5 billion contract for work on a petrochemicals plant west of Algiers by a subsidiary of Sonatrach, Algeria's state-owned oil company.

The group is in a joint venture with China Huanqiu Contracting & Engineering Corporation, a petrochemicals specialist, but said that its share of the work was valued at more than $1 billion.

It said that the award "broadens Petrofac's portfolio within the petrochemical sector and builds on its 25-year track record in Algeria".

Petrofac designs, builds and operates facilities for oil and gas companies and also works on low-carbon energy projects. The contract is a boon for Petrofac which has struggled to secure new work after the reputational damage of a



The group has struggled to secure new work after a bribery scandal

long-running Serious Fraud Office inquiry, which resulted in convictions for failing to prevent bribery and $104 million in penalties. It has also struggled because of belt-tightening in the oil and gas industry following the pandemic and amid the shift to greener energy.

In its annual results for 2022, Petrofac reported a widened net loss of $310 million as it was affected by cost overruns and delays. It warned of "material uncertainty" over its ability to continue as a going concern as its liquidity was "reliant on a small number of relatively high-value collections in respect of the conclusion of historical contracts, settlements and new awards".

Tareq Kawash, its new chief executive, said it had been "severely impacted by the challenges" in its legacy projects, which continued to "feel the direct and indirect effects of pandemic delays".

There has been speculation that Petrofac could be forced to tap investors for more cash to shore up its finances.

Analysts at Jefferies said the contract win meant that so far this year, Petrofac had now announced the highest level of new work for its core engineering and construction division since 2019.

New awards in this division were "crucial, not only for backlog growth but for cash advances which may be associated with them and which form part of the cashflow/debt maturity conundrum" the company was facing.

Shares in Petrofac closed up 9¼p, or 13.8 per cent, at 75½p.

THE TIMES

Enterprise Network

Thirst for change
Former Red Bull marketing lead Huib van Bockel was sick of office politics and hierarchy, so when he set up his energy drink brand Tenzing, he



decided there would be no bosses

Euro pay
British companies may have to provide more information about how much they pay men and women for the same work if EU legislation is adopted, lawyers warn.

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thetimes.co.uk/newsletters



Emma Powell **Tempus**

Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips

Operator has too many calls on line

BT

Annual pre-tax profit £1.73bn	Dividend yield 5.2 per cent

Rising costs and underperforming businesses have left BT struggling to convince investors to wait on hold.

The former monopoly has few delay tactics at its disposal. One of the few is swingeing job cuts, the latest attempt by Philip Jansen, BT boss, to prove that the telecoms group can emerge from spending billions on upgrading its network to full-fibre and rolling out 5G technology, as a lighter, more cash-generative business.

The telecoms group plans to cut its workforce by more than 40 per cent, taking between 40,000 and 55,000 people out of the business by the end of the decade. About half of the culling will come as the group comes to the end of its £15 billion new broadband build and the operating efficiency associated with the shift away from copper lines.

Plans to net an annual £1.9 billion in cost savings by the end of 2025, in the face of painful component and wage inflation, had already been sketched out. The lumbering giant needs to modernise, but making incremental savings is no fix for the challenges facing BT's cashflows.

Adjusted free cash, which strips out pension deficit payments, generated last year came in at £1.3billion, at the bottom end of a guidance range that stretched up to £1.5 billion. What's more, management expects adjusted free cash generation to fall again to between £1 billion and £1.2 billion, which at the midpoint, is 15 per cent less than analysts had been looking for. Higher-than-expected capital expenditure is the usual suspect, coming in roughly £100 million higher than investors had been braced for, at £5.1 billion. Ploughing cash into connecting more properties to full-fibre broadband means BT is set to spend a similar sum this year.

Openreach, the broadband network it owns but is legally separate from, is aiming to bring faster full-fibre to 25 million homes and businesses by the end of 2026, from just over ten million at present, and push the take-up of the network by customers from 30 to 40 per cent. By the end of the decade, it hopes heavy spending falls away and amps up cash churned out by the business.

But BT isn't the only operator in on the act, even if it has scale advantages to boast. Virgin Media and a number of so-called alt-nets, particularly CityFibre, backed by the Goldman Sachs infrastructure investment arm, are in a race to roll out their own fibre networks. The fear is that rivals will steal some of the rewards to be gleaned from BT's costly investment.

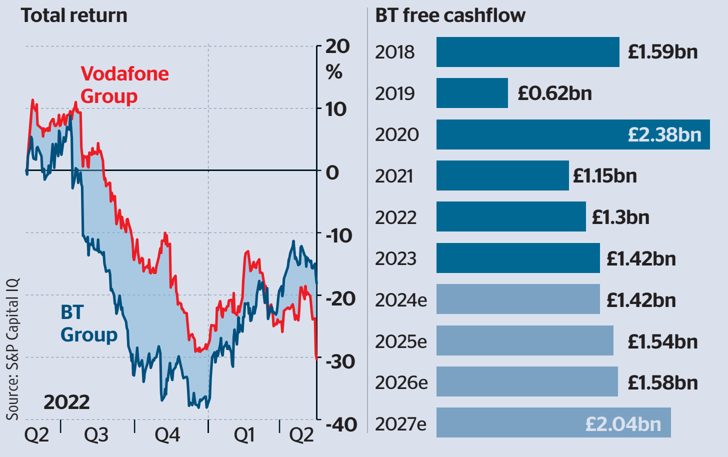
The loss of 68,000 broadband customers in the fourth quarter, an acceleration on the 10,000 decline the quarter before, hardly helps assuage those concerns. BT blamed customers using older, copper lines for the fall, a phenomenon that it expects to continue.

Like other legacy telecoms groups, BT is balancing multiple demands on its capital. Even putting its heavy infrastructure investment programme aside, it has a £3.1 billion pension funding gap to help fill and a policy to maintain or increase generous dividends to shareholders. Not surprisingly, the latter was kept flat at 7.7p a share for last year.

Add back pension payments of almost £1 billion and an annual dividend costing £753 million, and free cash generated after capex and tax payments came in at £1.4 billion last year, not enough to cover the next chunkiest of outlays.

The shares remain at less than half the level they were a decade ago. While questions remain over whether it can revive revenue and if heavy capex can come good, a slumbering share price will offset the benefit of beefy dividend returns.

Wrong numbers



ADVICE Avoid
WHY The shares will struggle to move higher while revenues are stagnant and free cashflows are coming under pressure

BURBERRY

Market cap £8.96 billion	Annual revenue growth 10%

Burberry's woes have done a 180, but not for the better. Just as the reopening of the lucrative Chinese market has spawned a recovery in sales hammered by tight lockdowns, the US is faltering.

A tougher macroeconomic backdrop has accelerated the fall in same-store sales in the Americas, which fell 7 per cent during the fourth quarter, worse than a 1 per cent decrease three months earlier. Tellingly, demand for lower value items is the source of the decline.

This market will continue to drag on sales over the first half of this year, as third-party stockists run down their inventories of Burberry goods while confidence remains weak. That is set to cause revenue from the wholesale channel at a group level to weaken by somewhere in the low double-digits.

The pressure on wholesale is unhelpful but given it accounts for only 18 per cent of group sales, there are greater potential rewards on offer from a recovery in the core retail channel within China and the Asia Pacific region. During the fourth quarter, sales in mainland China rebounded 13 per cent, which pushed up like-for-like sales in the latter region by 19 per cent. There should be more to come, as the return of travel takes root. Before the pandemic, roughly half of purchases by Chinese customers were made while overseas.

The collapse in Chinese sales has not been the only impediment to earnings, a style drift away from the fashion house's British roots has also hamstrung growth.

Jonathan Akeroyd, Burberry boss, hopes to tackle this by bringing the focus of the brand back to more recognisably British designs. He has replaced Riccardo Tisci, the creative chief, with Daniel Lee, the British designer. Within that, the aim is to lift sales of more profitable handbags, belts and scarves to more than half of sales and to boost the operating margin to 20 per cent this year and even higher over the next five years. Akeroyd hopes to lift revenue by £1billion to a record £4billion over the next three to five years.

If he can do that, the discount attached to Burberry's shares versus titans such as LVMH, Prada and Hermès, should start to narrow.

ADVICE Buy
WHY Good progress on sales should inspire confidence in turnaround plans

NEWS IN BRIEF

Alibaba set to break up

China's Alibaba will spin out its cloud computing business and weigh up stock market listings of its logistics and grocery units as it presses ahead with a break up. The Hangzhou-headquartered ecommerce and technology company is trying to revitalise its growth. Its revenue rose 2 per cent to $30.3 billion in the quarter to March 31. The group generated net profits of $3.42 billion, up from a loss of $3.2 billion a year previously. In early-afternoon trading in New York, shares were 5.2 per cent, or $4.70, lower at $85.98.

Informa buys Winsight

Informa, the FTSE 100 trade show company, has acquired the business-to-business media, data and events group Winsight for $380 million in an all-cash deal designed to boost its operations in the food service market. Winsight, based in Chicago, can trace its roots to 1966 and is expected to generate annual revenues of $100 million. Stephen Carter, chief executive of Informa, said the takeover would "further enhance revenues, margins, earnings and cashflow".

Energy bill refunds

Ovo Energy and Good Energy are to pay a combined £4 million in refunds, compensation and redress payments after overcharging customers. Almost 11,000 customers of Ovo Energy were overcharged by £1.5 million over the winter, while almost 7,000 Good Energy customers were overcharged by £392,000 between January 2019 and last October. Ofgem, the regulator, said that the suppliers would refund these sums and pay compensation.

Oxo firm's tasty results

The food group behind Mr Kipling cakes, Bisto gravy and Oxo cubes does not expect further price rises during the financial year after concluding that inflation has peaked. Premier Foods said it was confident the outlook was improving after gaining market share on supermarket shelves in the year to April. It issued robust results for the year, with revenue up by 11.8 per cent to £1.01 billion and pre-tax profits up by 9.6 per cent to £112.4 million. Shares in Premier Foods rose 3¼p to 132¾p.

PRICES

Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	33538.02 (+117.25)
Nasdaq Composite	12688.92 (+188.35)
S&P 500	4176.63 (+17.86)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	30573.93 (+480.34)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	19727.25 (+166.68)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	765.28 (+7.00)
Sydney	
AO	7427.00 (+37.70)
Frankfurt	
DAX	16163.36 (+212.06)
Singapore	
Straits	3182.55 (+8.71)
Brussels	
BEL20	3717.30 (+35.80)
Paris	
CAC-40	7446.89 (+47.45)
Zurich	
SMI Index	11437.78 n/a
DJ Euro Stoxx 50	4367.45 (+44.22)
London	
FTSE 100	7742.30 (+19.07)
FTSE 250	19298.25 (+82.80)
FTSE 350	4265.34 (+11.61)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3668.59 (+19.82)
FTSE All-Shares	4221.45 (+11.28)
FTSE Non Financials	5130.06 (+1.02)
techMARK 100	6946.44 (+29.76)
Bargains	n/a
US$	1.2400 (-0.0081)
Euro	1.1518 (+0.0002)
£:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
Exchange Index	80.18 (+0.05)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
CPI	128.87 Mar (2015 = 100)
RPI	367.20 Mar (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	290.10 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	677.16 (+5.72)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4703.45 (+27.75)

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 23	100.10	100.11	98.840	98.980	254473	507721
	SEP 23	99.810	99.880	98.950	98.920	831	367
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 23	96.420	96.430	96.415	96.420	116810	536647
	Sep 23	96.195	96.205	96.170	96.175	148662	602296
	Dec 23	96.295	96.305	96.240	96.250	114347	370487
	Mar 24	96.510	96.520	96.435	96.445	100142	343412
	Jun 24	96.755	96.765	96.670	96.675	95385	301584
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
FTSE100	Jun 23	7758.0	7789.5	7737.5	7756.0	79378	600726
	Sep 23	7777.0	7794.0	7760.5	7767.5	12	3108
FTSEurofirst 80	Jun 23				5877.0		
	Sep 23				5919.5		

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Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	75.74	-1.24
BFOE(Jul)	75.91	-1.11
BFOE(Aug)	75.86	-1.01
WTI(Jul)	71.94	-0.95
WTI(Aug)	71.86	-0.91

Products ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld	857.00	860.00	+29.00
Gasoil EEC	697.00	698.00	+0.50
3.5 Fuel Oil	405.00	405.00	+0.00
Naphtha	580.00	593.00	-4.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Jun	692.00-691.75	Sep	687.50-687.25
Jul	687.50-687.25	Oct	689.25-688.75
Aug	686.50-686.00		Volume: 639614

Brent (9.00pm)

Jul	75.75-75.74	Oct	75.15-75.12
Aug	75.68-75.66	Nov	74.83-74.80
Sep	75.45-75.43		Volume: 1889355

LIFFE

Cocoa

Jul	2337-2335	Sep	2100-2055
Sep	2300-2290	Dec	2087-2053
Dec	2237-2235	Mar	2051-1880
Mar	2175-2166		
May	2167-2138		
Jul	2113-2120		Volume: 71390

RobustaCoffee

May	2693-2650	Jan	2450-2409
Jul	2538-2536	Mar	2454-2100
Sep	2500-2486		
Nov	2463-2414		Volume: 21851

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	673.30-672.30
		May	654.50-654.00
Aug	706.70-706.40	Aug	631.40-628.00
Oct	695.50-692.80	Oct	608.90-597.70
Dec	684.10-681.20		Volume: 64376

The mercury is rising for medical devices firm



Jessica Newman **Market report**

A trading update from ConvaTec suggested that the Reading-based medical devices company was in rude health and sent the stock towards the top of the FTSE 100 risers' board.

ConvaTec has enjoyed a strong start to the year with revenues in the four months to the end of April rising 3.1 per cent on an organic basis against tough comparatives a year earlier.

Thanks to this growth and confidence in the outlook, ConvaTec has nudged up revenue expectations and expects operating profit margin to increase to at least 19.7 per cent. For the full year, bosses are now forecasting organic revenue growth of between 5 per cent and 6.5 per cent, above previous guidance of 4.5 per cent and 6 per cent. The shares put on 10¾p, or 5 per cent, to 226p.

Topping the FTSE 100 leaderboard was **JD Sports**, which improved by 9¾p, or 5.9 per cent, to 172¾p as dealers moved in on the recent weakness in the retailer's shares.

Applause for **Vistry**'s trading update gave a leg up to other housebuilders including **Barratt Developments**, which rose 6½p, or 1.3 per cent, to 506½p and **Persimmon**, up 23½p, or 1.8 per cent, to £13.43.

Informa gained 15¾p, or 2.2 per cent, to 722½p after the British events organiser said it would acquire the business-to-business events, data and media group Winsight for $380 million in an attempt to strengthen its position in the specialist food-service market.

All this, together with optimism that Washington was edging closer to a deal to raise the US debt ceiling and avoid a default, lifted the FTSE 100, which closed 19.07 points, or 0.3 per cent, higher to 7,742.30. The more UK-focused FTSE 250 put on 82.80 points, or 0.4 per cent, to 19,298.25.

Other standout performers included **Aston Martin**, which gained 28¾p, or 12.5 per cent, to 260p after Geely, the Chinese automotive company, doubled its stake in the luxury car-maker. **Genuit**, the pipe manufacturer, pipped Aston to the top of the FTSE 250 leaderboard. Its shares jumped 41p, or 13.8 per cent, to 339p as it said it expected operating profits this year to be ahead of consensus estimates.

Jefferies pushed **Mitchells & Butlers** on the basis that the pubs group should be able to win market share as other smaller operators struggle. It responded with a 9¼p, or 4.7 per cent, rise to 208½p.

Investors dialled up **Helios Towers**, the African mobile phone-masts operator, as it backed its full-year guidance on the back of a strong first quarter. Supported by its acquisitions in Malawi and Oman and strong organic growth, the group's revenues rose 34 per cent to $170.8 million, pushing its shares 4¼p higher to 96p.

Burberry slid 131p, or 5.2 per cent, to £23.89 as continued weakness in the United States overshadowed stronger-than-expected fourth-quarter sales. It was even worse for investors in the magazine publisher **Future**, which fell 166p, or 15.9 per cent, to 880p after lowering its full-year expectations on the back of challenging market conditions.

Shares in **Energean** shed 98p, or 7.9 per cent, to £11.38 as higher-than-expected output declines in Egypt and revised gas sales forecasts in Israel forced the FTSE 250 oil and gas explorer to slash production guidance.

On Aim, **MyHealthChecked** rose 4p, or 18.2 per cent, to 26p after the Cardiff-based testing company said it had bagged a deal with Boots to launch its at-home self-testing kit range. The company makes lateral-flow tests that cover multiple health concerns including bowel health, stomach ulcers and food intolerances.

Wall Street report

All three major US indices rose after better-than-expected earnings results from the retailer Walmart and optimism over the future profitability of artificial intelligence. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 115.14 points, or 0.3 per cent, to 33,535.91.

TECHNOLOGY

Fundraiser hits IQE share price

A discounted share placing raised £30 million for IQE, but sent shares in the computer chip components maker tumbling to a nearly seven-year low.

The Cardiff-based business, which makes the "wafers" used in microchips in smartphone cameras, placed 150 million shares, representing 18.6 per cent of its share capital, at 20p each. This was a discount of 14.9 per cent to the closing price of 23½p on Wednesday night.



The company makes the "wafers" for chips used in smartphones

IQE said proceeds from the raise would go towards investing in its strategy and meet near-term liquidity requirements.

The company recently warned that the glut of microchips built up by its customers, coupled with softer demand for its products, would impact its first-half revenues. Its unaudited results for the year to the end of December revealed that pre-tax losses rose to £74.5 million, up from £31 million a year earlier while revenues rose to £167.5 million from £154.1 million. The Aim-listed group is part of a cluster of semiconductor businesses in south Wales and has 670 employees at nine sites in Britain, America, Taiwan and Singapore.

The shares closed down 2¾p, or 11.7 per cent, at 20¾p.

THE WORKS



The Works up 22% on strong sales

The Works has defied the gloom on the high street and hailed strong store sales for keeping it on track to meet City expectations (Jessica Newman writes).

The retailer, which sells discount stationery, art materials and books, said total sales for the year to the end of April have increased 6.1 per cent to £316.6 million, against £298.4 million a year earlier.

Sales in its shops, which represented 88.8 per cent of total sales, rose 7.5 per cent on a like-for-like basis, offsetting a decline in online sales.

Gavin Peck, chief executive, said: "The store performance was strong throughout the period demonstrating the enduring appeal of our store network in communities across the UK and Ireland. Online sales continued to lag, partially reflecting the normalisation trend seen more widely."

Management expects adjusted operating profits for the year to tally with City views of about £9 million and is "comfortable" with the consensus estimate of £10 million for the 2024 financial year.

The company was founded in 1981 as Remainders, a value bookstore, and was rebranded in 2003. In 2008, it fell into administration and was rescued by Endless, a turnaround firm.

The Works floated in July 2018 at 160p, which gave it a market value of £100 million. The shares have since lost about four-fifths of their value. Its trading update, however, provided the stock with a much needed boost, with the shares climbing 6½p, or 22 per cent, to close at 36¼p last night.

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
Genuit Group Lifts profit guidance	13.8%
Aston Martin Lagonda Geely doubles stake	12.5%
ConvaTec Group Raises sales forecasts	5%
Mitchells & Butlers Jefferies tips to buy	4.7%
Informa Applause for Winsight acquisition	2.2%
BT Weaker-than-expected cashflows	-5%
Burberry Weak US demand	-5.2%
International Distribution Services Swings into £1 billion loss	-6%
Energean Cuts production guidance	-7.9%
Future Alarming interim results	-15.9%

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

May	186.00	Jul	180.00	Nov	188.50
Jan	unq	Mar	unq	Volume: 889	

London Metal Exchange

(Official)

Cash	3mth	Dec 22
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)		
8171.0-8171.5	8216.0-8217.0	8275.0-8285.0
Lead ($/tonne)		
2048.5-2049.5	2053.0-2054.0	2090.0-2095.0
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2481.0-2482.0	2490.0-2491.0	2505.0-2510.0
Alum Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2310.0-2312.0	2302.0-2304.0	2463.0-2468.0
Nickel ($/tonne)		
21250.0-21275.0	21310.0-21350.0	22485.0-22535.0
Tin ($/tonne)		**15mth**
25395.0-25405.0	25200.0-25250.0	24620.0-24670.0

Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)

Because of a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Wednesday.

Bullion: Open $1982.69

Close $1955.32-1955.59 **High** $1985.63

Low $1952.06

AM $1985.75 **PM** $1974.40

Krugerrand $1172.00-1244.00 (£944.64-1002.68)

Platinum $1092.00 (£880.16)

Silver $23.45 (£18.90)

Palladium $1721.11 (£1387.23)

European money deposits %

Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	4.20	4.70	4.74	0.81
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 4.50 ECB Refi 2.50 US Fed Fund 4.50-4.75

Halifax Mortgage Rate 3.99

Treasury Bills (Dis) Buy: 1 mth 4.430; 3 mth 4.586. Sell: 1 mth 4.200; 3 mth 4.400

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Interbank Rates	4.2013	0.000	4.6877	4.7447	0.00
Eurodollar Deps	5.33-5.33	5.41-5.43	5.04-5.04	4.67-4.67	3.82-3.82

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.5563-8.5878	8.5816-8.5828	121ds	362ds
Euro	1.1533-1.1493	1.1524-1.1523	10pr	29pr
Montreal	1.6717-1.6813	1.6770-1.6773	0pr	4ds
New York	1.2400-1.2491	1.2406-1.2407	8pr	21pr
Oslo	13.437-13.570	13.559-13.563	126ds	344ds
Stockholm	13.028-13.137	13.131-13.134	208ds	601ds
Tokyo	171.18-172.13	171.82-171.85	69ds	213ds
Zurich	1.1191-1.1245	1.1229-1.1231	32ds	95ds

Premium = pr Discount = ds

Dollar rates

Australia	1.5130-1.5131
Canada	1.3518-1.3519
Denmark	6.9169-6.9174
Euro	0.9287-0.9288
Hong Kong	7.8277-7.8278
Japan	138.50-138.50
Malaysia	4.5340-4.5390
Norway	10.929-10.931
Singapore	1.3484-1.3486
Sweden	10.583-10.586
Switzerland	0.9049-0.9049

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	288.04-288.05
Australia dollar	1.8770-1.8776
Bahrain dinar	0.4641-0.4711
Brazil real	6.1617-6.1655
Euro	1.1522-1.1524
Hong Kong dollar	9.7113-9.7123
India rupee	102.67-102.67
Indonesia rupiah	18489-18495
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3806-0.3829
Malaysia ringgit	5.6317-5.6379
New Zealand dollar	1.9980-1.9984
Singapore dollar	1.6730-1.6733
S Africa rand	24.051-24.062
U A E dirham	4.5598-4.5623

Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia $	1.876	
Canada $	1.673	-0.01
Denmark Kr	8.580	
Euro €	1.152	
Hong Kong $	9.713	-0.05
Hungary	434.026	+7.40
Indonesia	18443.843	-87.60
Israel Shk	4.520	-0.03
Japan Yen	171.987	+0.67
New Zealand $	1.998	
Norway Kr	13.545	+0.05
Poland	5.246	+0.04
Russia	99.416	-0.94
S Africa Rd	24.083	+0.02
Sweden Kr	13.130	+0.08
Switzerland Fr	1.124	
Turkey Lira	24.553	-0.08
USA $	1.241	-0.01

Rates supplied by Morningstar

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

Why have a stairlift when you can have a **real lift**?

A homelift from Stiltz is a discreet and attractive alternative to the stairlift. Available now from the UK's largest homelift provider.

Stairlift? No Thanks!

Why would you install a chair to travel up and down your stairs? After all, it gets in the way when you're trying to walk up or down, it's tricky to get on and off at the top of the stairs, and if you or the person using it needs a wheelchair or walking frame it means having one both upstairs and downstairs. It just doesn't make sense. With a homelift all you do is walk or wheel in, push the button and you're traveling between floors with safety, comfort, and ease.

Neat & Discreet

A Stiltz Homelift can be installed in almost any room in your home. Our smallest model has a footprint similar in size to a compact armchair and the curved lines help to further streamline the appearance. All Stiltz Homelifts plug into a dedicated standard domestic socket so don't need all the equipment which comes with hydraulic lifts, and the drive mechanism is hidden out of the way in the top of the lift car. Because the lift car runs up and down on its own vertical rails the whole installation is self-supporting. No other lift looks like it or works like it!

Furthermore, Stiltz Homelifts are so economical they've been proven to use less power than boiling a kettle.

Made for the Home

The majority of home lifts available in the UK are modified commercial lifts. Not so Stiltz Homelifts. Our vision from day one was to create lifts for everyone, and this means homelifts which are designed to work in a home from the outset. Every last detail has been thought about, from how the lift looks, through how it installs, to how it functions, how quiet it is and how cost-effective it is to run.



Elegant, practical and discreet. A Stiltz Homelift will transform your home and life.

Tried and Trusted

When Trustpilot reviewers refer to the Stiltz Homelift being 'a gamechanger', you KNOW you're doing something right. Reviewers also continually praise the cleanliness and professionalism of the surveyors, builders and installation teams.

"I could go upstairs when I wanted..."

Testimonial

"I've always been active, working as a police officer before re-training as a personal trainer. When I sustained my rugby injury resulting in the loss of use of my legs I had to work hard to readjust. With two children under the age of ten it became a must for me to live independently at home.

With the help of the RFU Injured Players Foundation, I was able to install a Stiltz Trio+ Wheelchair Homelift into my house. I can't begin to explain how significant this was for me. I could go upstairs when I wanted instead of relying on my partner to give me a piggy back. I could also read the kids their bedtime stories at their bedsides, just like any able-bodied Mum does.

With Stiltz I never felt sold to, nobody was pushy they just gave us all the information we needed to be able to make our own buying decision".



Dani Watts, Berkshire

Stiltz are very proud of the teams who work in customers' homes. We know our customers are concerned we might make a mess. But comments such as 'the installers left our home pristine', 'the building and installation teams were a joy to have in our home' and 'I can't praise the lads that come to do the work in our home enough', tells us our customers are overwhelmingly delighted with the work we do. Buy from a UK company who manufacture and install their own products using their own people, safe in the knowledge that if you need us, we are at the end of the phone in one of our three UK locations.

Homelifts for All

People buy homelifts for many different reasons. Some are wheelchair users who need immediate help with moving around the home and are looking for one of our larger lift models. Others are planning for the future and making their home secure for their golden years and are keen to install one of our stylish, compact models.

FREE, No-obligation Surveys

When you're ready, our UK-based team will be there to take your call. We can answer any questions you have and arrange for one of our Sales Advisors to visit at a convenient time. They will be able to help you decide which product will work for you and your home and provide specific answers relating to your property and lifestyle.

Your Home Lift questions answered

Q&A

Why should I consider a homelift rather than a stairlift?

A homelift is the ultimate future-proofing solution. A stairlift might seem like a good idea but what if a condition progresses to the point the user would find it impossible to get on and off a stairlift? With a homelift you can just step or wheel yourself in, and at the push of a button you're upstairs. No precarious perching on a seat at the top of the stairs!

How does a Stiltz differ from other homelifts?

A Stiltz Homelift has been developed specifically for use in the home – this isn't a commercial lift which has been retrospectively adapted into a homelift. Stiltz lifts also have some rather unique solutions. For instance, we have the ThruCar, perfect for wheelchair users as you can enter and exit the lift from opposite sides so there's no need to reverse into, or out of, the lift car.

Importantly, Stiltz manufacture, sell and install our own product. We do not rebadge or resell other companies' lifts.

Are you a UK-based company?

Yes. Stiltz Homelifts was founded in the UK. Our three main offices are in Berkshire, West Yorkshire, and the West Midlands. All the staff you'll talk to are based in the UK and research and development is carried out in our West Midlands headquarters. The homelifts are manufactured in our own factory in the Far East which is staffed 100% by Stiltz employees.

How easy is it to install the lift?

Very easy. We employ and train our own building and installation teams – Stiltz rarely use subcontractors. We carefully survey your property. Firstly, our Sales Advisor will visit and determine suitability, taking you through the lift ranges, pricing, and location options. Once you're happy to proceed, our Technical Surveyor will visit and thoroughly check your home to establish what needs to be done to ensure a successful installation. The notes they prepare will be used by our Operations Team to create a report for the builders and installers to work from. Everything is taken care of, even the lift which is modular and plugs into a dedicated standard domestic socket which we will install for you.

Now you CAN stay in the home you love

When children have flown the nest we can find ourselves wondering what the future might hold. Maybe we'd be better off in a smaller property? But what about all the memories and treasured belongings that surround us?

Downsizing is expensive and risky, moving home is stressful. If you love your home and you're surrounded by friends, family and an established support network, you might question whether moving is absolutely necessary. There's less pressure these days to downsize with a shift in opinion towards adapting the family home as we grow older. We call it 'aging in place'.

Today's mobility solutions are far more integrated than simply installing a functional handrail. Innovative and exciting products are emerging which are designed to discreetly adapt your home. This means it's possible to continue living in the family home without the worry of downsizing or moving house.

Stiltz Homelifts are at the forefront of the drive for aesthetics with their neat, discreet, quiet and life-changing domestic lifts. There really is no need for a stairlift that not only looks unattractive but provides a trip risk for others in the home who might use the stairs.

Design and styling is where a Stiltz Homelift really earns its stripes. Unlike any other homelift on the market the product's elegant look and feel has been designed to be admired but also to blend effortlessly into the background. Curved lines and a warm, soft, grey aluminium finish with a matching glazed lift car allows natural light to flood through the home. Subtle lighting will bring your lift to life whenever you step into it.

Queens award winners

In late April 2020 during the first lockdown, Stiltz Homelifts learned they had been awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise: International Trade. For a young company who have become established and successful in the traditional world of accessibility products which isn't typically known for being design and innovation led, this was a big deal.

Stiltz Homelifts have led the field in creating products that help users live full and independent lives at home. And it is this which sets them apart. Other homelifts are adaptations of commercial products but a Stiltz Homelift is designed – from the ground up if you like – to be used specifically in the home. It is this passion for creating well-designed products that are as good to look at as they are to use which has so caught the public's imagination.

For a FREE brochure or no obligation survey
Call FREE on 0808 304 6909 or visit www.stiltz.co.uk

*ask an adviser for details

Stiltz™ Homelifts

The Times unit trust information service

ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS
Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt Yield A ‡@	206.01	...	+0.27	1.05
Strategic Bond Fund ‡@	151.57	...	-1.25	4.57
UK Corp Bond C ‡@	104.79	...	-0.78	3.87
UK Eqty C ‡@	6317.26	...	-14.91	3.28
UK Eqty Inc A ‡@	325.26	...	+1.88	4.51
UK Gwth A ‡@	8148.86	...	+72.07	...
UK Index A Inc ‡@	1423.81	...	-5.83	3.01
UK Mid Cap A ‡@	4654.61	...	-11.35	...

ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD
0800 092 2051
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Capital R Acc ‡@	2198.65	...	+20.92	3.35
Euro Opps R Acc ‡@	91.26	...	-0.48	1.29
Euro Opps R Inc ‡@	85.36	...	-0.46	1.30
European Growth R Acc ‡@	400.34	...	-2.27	1.87
Global Energy R Acc ‡@	39.04	...	-0.07	1.21
Global Growth R Acc ‡@	340.78	...	+3.85	...
Global Income R Acc ‡@	152.84	...	+1.95	4.33
Global Income R Inc ‡@	96.08	...	+1.22	4.54
Global Select R Acc ‡@	151.03	...	+1.52	...
High Income R Inc ‡@	62.23	...	+0.06	...
Income R Acc ‡@	519.44	...	+4.83	3.77
Income R Inc ‡@	223.00	...	+2.08	3.89
Monthly Dist R Inc ‡@	63.43	...	+0.26	4.84
Strategic Assets R Acc ‡@	93.19	...	+0.53	...
Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡@	95.44	...	-0.32	3.69
Strategic Bond R M Inc ‡@	49.64	...	-0.17	3.78
Strategic Bond R Q Acc ‡@	95.27	...	-0.32	3.69
Strategic Bond R Q Inc ‡@	49.60	...	-0.16	3.76
UK Growth R Acc ‡@	746.64	...	+11.07	2.14
UK Smaller Cos R Acc ‡@	1855.32	...	+5.09	...
UK Special Sits R Acc ‡@	716.71	...	+6.88	1.11

AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Inc ‡@	572.40	...	-2.70	4.43
Gilt Acc @	201.30	211.80	+0.10	1.08
Gilt Inc @	74.35	78.24	-0.39	1.09
Health Acc ‡@	3024.00	...	+5.00	...
Jap Smlr Co Ac @	62.56	66.09	-0.19	0.30
Managed Inc ‡@	138.30	...	...	4.20
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	209.80	...	+0.70	5.97
UK Growth Inc ‡@	218.50	...	+2.30	0.64
UK Select Opps Inc ‡@	1897.00	...	+12.00	1.14
UK Sml Cos Inc ‡@	261.00	...	-0.10	0.04

AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD
Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808
AXA Trusts

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gen Acc ‡@	2101.00	...	+6.00	2.64
Gen Inc ‡@	1079.00	...	-2.00	2.70

UK/Global Investment Companies

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Acc A ‡@	234.70	...	...	1.18
Extra Inc Inc B ‡@	86.74	...	+0.24	1.16
Global Gwth Acc R ‡@	288.10	...	+4.10	0.52
Japan Acc A ‡@	162.30	...	+2.20	1.51
Pac Gwth Acc A ‡@	479.80	...	-17.60	...

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
08457 46 46 46

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Gwth ‡@	215.40	...	+1.70	1.10
Sus Leaders ‡@	811.50	...	+6.50	1.15
UK Growth ‡@	634.30	...	+6.20	2.04
UK Income ‡@	206.30	...	+0.70	5.09

CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0870 606 6402

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beacon Inv ‡	84.88	...	+0.35	0.01

Dealing: 020 7426 6232

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Winchester ‡	3622.26	...	+53.37	1.02

EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD
0800 358 3010

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Resp & Sust Sterling Bond ‡	84.05	...	-0.37	4.13
Resp & Sust Eurp Eq ‡	329.40	...	+3.10	1.91
Resp & Sust Glbl Eq ‡	337.00	...	+3.70	0.53
Resp & Sust Mgd Income ‡	123.00	...	...	4.87
Resp & Sust UK Eq ‡	225.60	...	+2.10	1.53
Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps ‡	276.90	...	+2.00	1.16

F & C FUND MANAGEMENT LTD (OEICS)
Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083
Share Class 1 - Retail

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bd ‡@	49.99	...	-0.31	1.57
Emerging Mkts ‡@	116.50	...	-0.50	...
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ‡@	1287.00	...	+10.00	...
Extra Inc Bond ‡@	43.53	...	-0.05	1.88
FTSE All-Shr Track ‡@	431.70	...	+2.20	2.90
Global Gwth SC1 ‡@	307.10	...	+3.20	...
High Inc Trst @	10.99	11.58	+0.02	5.52
Max Inc Bond ‡@	42.84	...	-0.02	3.39
Multi Man Caut ‡@	70.41	...	...	3.18
Multi Man Distr ‡@	60.44	...	...	3.37
North Amer ‡@	828.60	...	+12.70	...
Pacific Gwth ‡@	472.50	...	+3.10	...
Strategic Bd ‡@	194.80	...	-0.50	1.46
UK Equity ‡@	3446.00	...	+2.00	1.27
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ‡@	658.50	...	...	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist ‡@	234.70	...	...	...
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	1031.00	...	+4.00	...

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL
Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Spec Sits ‡@	2174.00	...	+24.00	...
American ‡@	5354.00	...	+54.00	...
Euro Opps ‡@	606.30	...	+5.50	0.31
European ‡@	3590.00	...	+30.00	...
Extra Income ‡@	22.18	...	-0.06	5.55
Glob Spec Sits ‡@	5553.00	...	+65.00	...
Global Focus ‡@	2947.00	...	+27.00	...
International ‡@	149.50	...	+0.20	0.08
Japan ‡@	579.20	...	+6.10	...
Moneybldr Bal ‡@	43.55	...	-0.09	3.86
Moneybldr Glob	327.60	327.60	-0.10	0.21
Moneybldr Gwth ‡@	76.12	...	-0.95	2.97
Moneybldr Inc ‡@	28.86	...	-0.17	...
Moneybldr UK Ind ‡@	132.18	...	+0.83	3.14
Special Sits ‡@	4530.00	...	+27.00	2.56
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	+0.53	0.44

HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD
01296 386 386
Authorised Inv Funds
Share Class `C

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bond ‡@	32.20	...	-0.17	...
Ethical ‡@	112.40	...	+1.30	0.01
European ‡@	115.30	...	+0.70	1.91
Far Eastern ‡	113.10	...	+1.20	...
Fund of Inv Tst ‡@	135.30	...	+1.00	0.43
Intl Gwth ‡	127.00	...	+1.30	1.44
Japanese ‡	72.45	...	+0.81	...
North Amer ‡	150.30	...	+1.80	...
Smaller Cos ‡@	105.20	...	+1.00	1.17
Special Sits ‡@	51.34	...	+0.03	...
UK Equity Inc ‡@	92.99	...	+0.37	3.75
UK FTSE 100 IT ‡@	72.26	...	+0.36	...
UK FTSE All-S IT ‡@	81.16	...	+0.45	...
UK Growth ‡@	84.02	...	+0.27	...

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD
Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Ind Acc ‡@	926.74	...	+12.08	...
Amer Ind Inc ‡@	734.49	...	+9.58	...
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	1240.56	...	+10.33	2.13
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	772.17	...	+6.43	2.20
FTSE 100 Ind Acc ‡@	285.13	...	+1.33	2.99
FTSE 100 Ind Inc ‡@	127.32	...	+0.59	3.06
FTSE 250 Ind Acc ‡@	291.42	...	+2.40	2.25
FTSE 250 Ind Inc ‡@	173.75	...	+1.42	2.25
FTSE All-S Acc ‡@	722.92	...	+3.75	3.02
FTSE All-S Inc ‡@	359.19	...	+1.86	3.09
Jap Ind Acc ‡@	148.00	...	+1.43	1.93
Jap Ind Inc ‡@	113.14	...	+1.09	2.25
Pac Ind Acc ‡@	498.75	...	+4.32	...
Pac Ind Inc ‡@	302.95	...	+2.63	...

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc ‡@	243.44	...	+0.99	0.92
Balanced Inc ‡@	151.95	...	-0.14	...
Corp Bd Acc ‡@	264.39	...	-1.38	...
Corp Bd Inc ‡@	101.65	...	-0.53	...
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@	497.78	...	+1.62	...
Gilt & Fd Int Inc ‡@	74.17	...	+0.24	...
Income Acc ‡@	730.21	...	+4.90	4.09
Income Inc ‡@	299.60	...	+2.01	4.22
Monthly Inc Acc ‡@	313.41	...	+0.77	3.21
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	129.24	...	+0.37	3.90
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc ‡@	149.39	...	+1.09	4.01
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc ‡@	65.94	...	+0.48	4.13
UK Gth & Inc Acc ‡@	149.39	...	+1.09	4.01
UK Gth & Inc Inc ‡@	65.94	...	+0.48	4.13

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Index Retail Acc ‡@	926.74	...	+12.08	...
American Index Retail Inc ‡@	734.49	...	+9.58	...
Asian Gth Acc ‡@	147.77	...	-0.07	...
Asian Gth Inc ‡@	130.99	...	-0.06	...
Chinese Eq Acc ‡@	513.81	...	+0.27	...
Chinese Eq Inc ‡@	434.76	...	+0.22	...
Euro Gth Acc ‡@	973.97	...	+4.05	0.41
Euro Gth Inc ‡@	817.05	...	+3.39	0.44

IGNIS ASSET MGMT
Dlg: 0141 222 8282

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gth Inc @	322.55	340.42	-3.34	...
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-0.93	1.52
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-1.40	1.49
Corporate Bond ‡@	99.69	...	-0.89	4.77
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-3.57	2.18
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-4.21	2.24
Glob Gwth @	331.53	349.90	-3.09	...
Higher Yield @	83.98	88.64	-0.29	4.43
Higher Yield Acc @	275.04	290.28	-0.92	4.32
Japan @	49.06	51.78	-0.03	...
Managed @	130.89	138.15	-0.06	0.66
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+0.17	...
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	-0.11	0.58
Pacific Grth @	498.71	526.34	-2.81	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	+1.64	0.15
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	+1.36	0.21

INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD
Client Servs: 0207 163 4000
Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@	96.05	...	-0.32	...
Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@	93.79	...	-0.36	...

INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD
Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677
Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121
INVESCO Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Str Inc N/Trl ‡@	323.57	...	-0.12	7.05

INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Childrens Acc ‡@	477.03	...	+3.36	2.27
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	198.29	...	-1.03	...
High Income Inc ‡@	311.12	...	+2.60	3.93
Income & Grth Inc ‡@	425.52	...	+3.56	3.03
Income Inc ‡@	1260.38	...	+9.73	3.49
Money Acc ‡@	93.08	...	...	1.65
Monthly Inc Plus Inc ‡@	90.88	...	+0.01	6.18
UK Aggressive Inc ‡@	154.28	...	-0.24	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	922.86	...	+3.01	1.62
UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc ‡@	1344.50	...	+4.20	...
UK Sml Cos Gwth ‡@	82.54	...	+0.04	...

INVESTEC FUND MGRS
Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900
OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American A Acc ‡@	679.77	...	+2.10	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc ‡@	734.34	...	-0.57	...
Capital Accumulator A Acc ‡@	231.48	...	-3.81	...
Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@	376.09	...	-1.69	1.91
Cautious Managed A Inc ‡@	235.65	...	-1.05	1.90
Diversified Growth A Acc ‡@	128.82	...	-0.90	0.60
Diversified Growth A Inc ‡@	136.42	...	-0.95	...
Diversified Income A Acc ‡@	322.79	...	-0.89	2.82
Diversified Income A Inc ‡@	68.10	...	-0.19	4.24
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ‡@	113.10	...	-0.32	4.84
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross ‡@	125.82	...	+0.20	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc ‡@	64.66	...	-0.19	6.70
Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc ‡@	143.80	...	-0.16	0.96
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc ‡@	184.13	...	-0.53	5.02
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc ‡@	71.35	...	-0.20	5.26
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc ‡@	220.49	...	-0.05	...
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc ‡@	134.24	...	-1.25	...
Global Bond A Acc ‡@	139.30	...	+4.03	...
Global Bond A Inc ‡@	109.33	...	+3.00	...
Global Bond I Gross Inc ‡@	1167.00	...	+29.78	...
Global Dynamic A Acc ‡@	193.61	...	+1.95	0.47
Global Energy A Acc ‡@	170.97	...	-1.14	...
Global Equity A Acc ‡@	230.84	...	-0.25	0.13
Global Franchise A Acc ‡@	305.22	...	+0.22	...
Global Free Enterprise A Acc ‡@	1233.76	...	+1.79	0.38
Global Gold A Acc ‡@	205.12	...	-4.05	0.80

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Global Special Situations A Acc ‡@	314.00	...	-0.58	...
Global Special Situations A Inc ‡@	242.88	...	-0.45	...
Managed Growth A Acc ‡@	282.51	...	-2.95	...
Monthly High Income A Acc ‡@	243.45	...	+0.43	3.54
Monthly High Income A Inc ‡@	63.17	...	+0.01	5.01
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc ‡@	167.05	...	-0.22	...
Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@	244.54	...	+0.19	...
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	119.47	...	+0.09	...
Target Return A Acc ‡@	102.03	...	+0.44	0.82
Target Return A Inc ‡@	87.63	...	+0.01	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc ‡@	2704.96	...	-13.07	1.95
UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@	770.11	...	+3.15	...
UK Smaller Companies A Acc ‡@	4646.43	...	-7.11	...
UK Smaller Companies A Inc ‡@	4167.56	...	-6.38	...
UK Special Situations A Acc ‡@	1407.38	...	-9.36	1.54
UK Special Situations A Inc ‡@	504.50	...	-3.36	1.57

For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)

JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS
Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@	112.60	...	-0.60	2.12
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc ‡@	76.39	...	+0.63	6.03
Cautious Man Fd A Acc ‡@	288.00	...	-0.30	...
Cautious Man Fd A Inc ‡@	140.80	...	-0.10	...
China Opp Fund A Acc ‡@	1098.00	...	+5.00	0.28
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	189.80	...	+1.40	0.76
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc ‡@	304.90	...	+2.00	1.15
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	2332.00	...	+21.00	1.15
Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc ‡@	28.53	...	-0.11	4.79
Global Equity Fund Acc ‡@	4226.00	...	+43.00	...
Global Equity Income A Acc ‡@	67.45	...	+0.34	3.28
Global Tech A Acc ‡@	3042.00	...	+50.00	...
Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc ‡@	117.16	...	+0.62	2.87
M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc ‡@	164.50	...	-0.50	0.81
M-Man Active Fd A Acc ‡@	257.50	...	+1.40	...
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc ‡@	146.90	...	-0.30	2.71
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc ‡@	188.80	...	-0.40	...
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc ‡@	202.60	...	-1.20	1.82
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc ‡@	55.01	...	-0.32	1.84
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	102.80	...	-0.60	3.26
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc ‡@	170.40	...	+0.30	...
UK Alpha Fund A Acc ‡@	140.80	...	+1.30	1.12



	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc ‡@	742.50	...	-1.70	...
UK Property A Acc @	264.95	278.15	+0.01	2.63
UK Property A Inc @	105.80	111.07	...	2.68
US Growth Fund A Acc ‡@	1742.00	...	+23.00	...

JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT
OEIC

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Asia A Acc ‡@	259.00	...	+2.20	...
Emerging Mkts ‡@	261.50	...	+3.00	...
Eur Dyn (ex-UK) A Acc ‡@	270.30	...	+4.70	0.47
Euro Smllr Cos ‡@	864.00	...	+17.40	...
Europe A Acc ‡@	1734.00	...	+35.00	1.35
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Acc ‡@	117.30	...	+1.10	5.30
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Inc ‡@	30.89	...	+0.29	5.45
Gl ex-UK Bd A Acc ‡@	257.40	...	-0.70	0.07
Gl ex-UK Bd A Inc ‡@	196.80	...	-0.50	0.08
Glb Fins A Acc ‡@	1077.00	...	+1.00	...
Global A Acc ‡@	2049.00	...	+11.00	...
Japan A Acc ‡@	516.80	...	+6.20	...
Multi-Man Tst A Acc ‡@	1268.00	...	+16.00	0.57
Multi-Man Tst A Inc ‡@	1127.00	...	+15.00	0.58
Nat Resources ‡@	951.20	...	+17.30	...
New Europe A ‡@	155.70	...	+12.00	2.11
Portfolio ‡@	295.60	...	+0.40	0.98
Stg Corp Bd A Acc ‡@	85.59	...	-0.13	...
Stg Corp Bd A Inc ‡@	48.30	...	-0.08	...
UK Act 350 A Acc ‡@	199.00	...	-2.20	...
UK Dynamic Acc ‡@	206.70	...	+4.30	...
UK Dynamic Inc ‡@	148.20	...	+3.10	...
UK Equity A Acc ‡@	401.90	...	+0.60	3.45
UK Equity A Inc ‡@	46.44	...	+0.07	3.49
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Acc ‡@	167.10	...	-0.20	3.41
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Inc ‡@	90.29	...	-0.48	3.50
UK Higher Inc A Acc ‡@	1132.00	...	+7.00	...
UK Higher Inc A Inc ‡@	531.30	...	+2.00	...
UK Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	563.30	...	+7.00	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Acc ‡@	197.90	...	+3.50	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Inc ‡@	100.50	...	+1.77	...
US A Acc ‡@	1036.00	...	+25.00	...

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
US Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	976.20	...	+14.00	...

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
020 7581 3020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Absolute Return ‡@	31.95	...	-0.10	0.11
Distribution and Growth ‡@	96.52	...	-0.33	...
Emg Euro Opps ‡@	145.34	...	-31.23	...
Euro Special Sits ‡@	468.04	...	+3.86	...
European ‡@	2992.09	...	+26.72	...
Financial Opps ‡@	695.27	...	+6.76	0.20
Income Trust ‡@	509.57	...	+2.02	3.92
Merlin Bal (Acc) ‡@	232.59	...	+0.67	2.05
Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡@	539.57	...	-3.22	...
Merlin Inc (Acc) ‡@	343.35	...	-1.37	2.86
Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡@	378.51	...	-1.90	...
UK Growth ‡@	264.88	...	+2.05	0.67
UK Special Sits (Inc) ‡@	208.33	...	+0.57	2.15

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Acc @	2616.00	2639.00	-8.00	2.12
Equity Dist @	893.80	902.00	-2.70	2.15
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	545.80	...	+3.30	2.11
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	357.60	...	+2.20	2.16
Fixed Int Acc ‡@	129.80	...	-0.70	2.35
Fixed Int Dist ‡@	60.53	...	-0.35	2.38
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	-1.30	1.15
Glob Health Acc ‡@	108.40	...	-0.50	...
Glob Tech Acc ‡@	96.04	...	+0.48	...
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-1.00	0.17
High Inc Acc ‡@	122.30	...	...	...
Japan Ind Acc ‡@	72.08	...	+0.56	1.75
Pacific Ind Acc ‡@	199.60	...	+1.50	...
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+0.90	3.19
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	-0.10	...
UK Index Acc ‡@	354.30	...	+1.80	3.11
UK Index Dist ‡@	168.30	...	+0.90	3.19
US Ind Acc ‡@	801.20	...	+2.20	...
Worldwide Acc ‡@	338.50	...	+1.70	0.73

M & G SECURITIES
Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Charifund Inc ‡	1467.72	...	+0.83	5.51

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡	525.29	...	-3.39	...
Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡	462.50	...	-3.00	...

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Extra Income Inc ‡	693.40	...	...	5.01
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc ‡	74.58	...	-0.61	2.59
Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc ‡	39.06	...	+0.01	5.66
Index Linked Bd Inc ‡	110.90	...	-1.08	...
Index Trckr Inc ‡	78.51	...	+0.40	3.63
Short Dated Corp Bd Inc ‡	24.96	...	-0.02	2.80
UK Select A Inc ‡	2829.75	...	+22.30	2.27

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bd A Inc ‡	33.19	...	-0.18	...
Dividend Inc ‡	52.91	...	+0.10	5.79
Recovery A Inc ‡	109.76	...	+0.53	3.50
Sml Cos Inc ‡	329.46	...	+1.60	2.41

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Episode Allocation A Inc ‡@	138.63	...	+0.43	...

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0808 005 5555

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Income	85.28	85.28	-0.08	4.19
High Income Acc	241.30	241.30	-0.20	4.08
UK 100 Comp Acc @	467.50	467.50	+0.80	2.87
UK 100 Cos @	229.60	229.60	+0.30	2.94
UK Select Pflo @	344.20	344.20	-0.90	3.17
UK Selection Port Acc @	712.40	712.40	-1.70	1.49
Worldwide Mgd Acc @	937.50	937.50	-2.70	1.30
Wwide Mgd @	548.30	548.30	-1.60	1.31

MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
Enquires: 0800 0961 962
The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)
Class A Shares
Equity

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Dev Opp Fund F Acc ‡@	767.64	...	+3.69	...
Dev Opp Fund I Acc ‡@	763.34	...	+3.66	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Acc ‡@	931.30	...	+6.30	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Inc ‡@	851.73	...	+5.76	...
Glob Bal Inc F I Acc ‡@	929.79	...	+6.29	...
Glob Bal Inc F I Inc ‡@	850.19	...	+5.75	...
Glob Bal Sust F F Acc ‡@	937.01	...	+4.28	...
Glob Bal Sust F F Inc ‡@	917.25	...	+4.19	...
Glob Bal Sust F I Acc ‡@	935.71	...	+4.27	...
Glob Bal Sust F I Inc ‡@	917.04	...	+4.19	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc ‡@	1329.59	...	+3.27	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc ‡@	1852.39	...	+4.53	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc ‡@	1421.76	...	+3.48	...
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1599.87	...	+3.57	0.70
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	13835.75	...	+41.71	...
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	1526.57	...	+3.42	0.70
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	3787.68	...	+11.42	...
Glob Ins Fund F Acc ‡@	549.19	...	+10.98	...
Glob Ins Fund F Inc ‡@	549.19	...	+10.99	...
Glob Ins Fund I Acc ‡@	546.40	...	+10.93	...
Glob Ins Fund I Inc ‡@	546.40	...	+10.93	...
Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) ‡@	1178.12	...	+6.89	0.62
Glob Sust Fund F Inc ‡@	1257.95	...	+8.50	0.62
Glob Sust Fund I Acc ‡@	1275.27	...	+8.61	0.47
Glob Sust Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1176.24	...	+6.88	0.47
Glob Sustain Fund F Acc ‡@	1282.49	...	+8.66	0.62
Stg Corp Bond F F Acc ‡@	119.56	...	-0.57	...
Stg Corp Bond F F Inc ‡@	93.52	...	-0.44	...
Stg Corp Bond F I Acc ‡@	2541.88	...	-12.02	...
Stg Corp Bond F I Inc ‡@	1326.67	...	-6.27	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc ‡@	933.02	...	-1.86	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc ‡@	887.82	...	-1.77	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc ‡@	928.50	...	-1.86	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc ‡@	887.53	...	-1.78	...
US Adv F F Acc ‡@	1498.83	...	+29.26	...
US Adv F F Acc (PH) ‡@	850.01	...	+15.74	...
US Adv F I Acc ‡@	1593.52	...	+31.10	...
US Adv F I Acc (PH) ‡@	890.34	...	+16.48	...

SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS
08457 413002

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Pfolio Inc ‡@	110.50	...	+0.40	2.41
Bal Port Gwth Acc ‡@	232.80	...	-0.40	1.18
Equity Inc Inc ‡@	199.80	...	-1.10	5.12
N&P UK Gwth Inc ‡@	182.80	...	+0.10	3.09
Stkmkt 100 Tkr @	267.90	267.90	-1.20	3.11
UK Growth Acc ‡@	458.10	...	-2.50	3.18
UK Growth Inc ‡@	241.30	...	-1.30	3.26

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Inc	1777.00	1873.48	+4.40	0.78
Far Eastern Inc	584.69	617.09	-0.73	...
Intl Growth Inc	380.56	400.59	+0.02	0.75
Japanese Inc	41.85	41.85	+0.43	...
Mutual European	2762.93	2908.99	-21.63	1.11
Mutual Far Eastern	900.13	950.01	+3.13	...
Mutual North Am	1983.00	2092.88	+6.23	0.24
Mutual UK Eq	1419.40	1428.80	-10.35	2.59
Nth American Inc	1227.65	1295.67	-7.28	...
UK Equity Inc	562.23	593.38	+1.31	1.56

SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS
0845 300 2244
Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)
OEIC A Class
Managed Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Port A Acc ‡@	237.60	...	+0.80	0.01
Caut Port A Acc ‡@	207.10	...	+0.30	0.43
Caut Port A Inc ‡@	152.00	...	+0.30	0.60
Opps Port A Acc ‡@	280.20	...	+1.30	...
Prog Port A Acc ‡@	266.60	...	+1.10	...

Overseas Growth Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Eur Sel Gth A Acc ‡@	3585.00	...	-11.00	2.03

Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr A Acc ‡@	393.60	...	-1.20	2.91
UK Trkr A Inc ‡@	194.90	...	-0.60	2.98

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond A Acc ‡@	281.60	...	-0.80	2.49
Corp Bond A Inc ‡@	103.70	...	-0.30	2.52
Envir Invtr A Acc ‡@	393.30	...	+0.30	1.73
Hi Inc Bond A Acc ‡@	230.50	...	-0.20	...
Hi Inc Bond A Inc ‡@	67.58	...	-0.04	...
Hi Res A Acc ‡@	384.20	...	-1.40	3.66
Hi Res A Inc ‡@	119.20	...	-0.40	3.74
Safety Plus A Acc ‡@	40.49	...	...	...
Strat Inc A Acc ‡@	186.70	...	-0.20	3.54
Strat Inc A Inc ‡@	81.30	...	-0.10	3.61
UK Gwth A Acc ‡@	199.10	...	-0.70	...
UK Sel Gwth A Acc ‡@	2392.00	...	-4.00	...

OEIC B Class
Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr B Acc ‡@	434.60	...	-1.30	3.00
UK Trkr B Inc ‡@	193.80	...	-0.60	3.08

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond B Acc ‡@	370.70	...	+0.90	1.39
Corp Bond B Inc ‡@	136.30	...	+0.30	1.40
UK Gwth B Acc ‡@	205.60	...	-0.30	1.79
UK Sel Gwth B Acc ‡@	2481.00	...	...	1.09

OEIC C Class
UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Gth C Inc ‡@	128.50	...	-0.40	3.27
UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@	2598.00	...	...	1.29

STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS
0845 279 3003
Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AAA Inc CAT Acc ‡@	88.49	...	-0.27	1.38
AAA Inc CAT Inc ‡@	49.62	...	-0.16	1.39
AAA Income Acc ‡@	96.45	...	-0.30	1.79
Amer Eq Gth Acc ‡@	204.00	...	+2.30	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	154.30	...	-0.80	3.24
Corp Bond Inc ‡@	51.22	...	-0.28	3.31
Euro Eq Gth Acc ‡@	262.10	...	+3.90	...
Glb Advtg CAT Acc ‡@	149.20	...	+0.60	1.38
Glob Advtg Acc ‡@	197.00	...	+0.80	1.35
Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@	161.90	...	+2.50	...
Higher Inc Acc ‡@	145.20	...	+0.10	4.40
Higher Inc Inc ‡@	44.76	...	+0.02	4.53
Japan Eq Gth Acc ‡@	127.40	...	...	...
Managed Acc ‡@	368.70	...	+2.70	0.69
Select Inc Acc ‡@	91.51	...	...	...
Select Inc Inc ‡@	51.26	...	-0.26	...
UK Eq Gth Acc ‡@	372.70	...	+1.70	...
UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@	230.00	...	+1.00	...
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@	271.40	...	+1.40	4.49
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc ‡@	73.45	...	+0.39	4.65
UK Ethical Acc ‡@	206.30	...	+2.20	2.22
UK Opps Acc ‡@	234.40	...	...	...
UK Opps Inc ‡@	211.70	...	...	...
UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡@	756.90	...	+4.20	0.66

SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS
Enquiries:0141 222 1151

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced A Acc ‡@	134.39	...	+0.59	1.25
Balanced A Inc ‡@	119.48	...	+0.52	1.26
Cautious A Acc ‡@	111.48	...	-0.03	1.81
Cautious A Inc ‡@	95.97	...	-0.02	1.83
Dynamic A Acc ‡@	328.30	...	+2.21	0.91
Dynamic A Inc ‡@	294.58	...	+2.00	0.91
Growth A Acc ‡@	337.88	...	+1.96	1.09
Income A Acc ‡@	246.25	...	+0.43	...
Sterling Bond Acc ‡@	242.37	...	-0.28	3.52
Sterling Bond Inc ‡@	97.00	...	-0.11	3.61

THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Client Serv: 0800 0683000
Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc ‡@	130.33	...	+0.41	1.50

Retail Shares (Class 1)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc ‡@	36.34	...	+0.02	...
Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	79.46	...	+0.06	3.55
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc ‡@	53.12	...	-0.25	2.57
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rtl Inc ‡@	53.02	...	-0.25	2.23
Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc ‡@	43.20	...	-0.33	2.46
Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret ‡@	40.46	...	-0.07	3.65
Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	101.34	...	+0.23	3.40
Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	94.20	...	+0.36	2.72
Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl ‡@	185.92	...	+0.56	1.83
Threadneedle UK Mthly Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	69.49	...	+0.13	4.12
Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc ‡@	140.07	...	+1.06	1.43
Threadneedle UK Smaller Coms Rtl Inc ‡@	355.39	...	-0.01	...

For Resolution see Ignis
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British	961.10	961.10	+6.10	...
European	210.70	219.40	+1.00	...

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

British funds

Index-linked

Stock Outstanding(£)		Stock	Price (£)	Wkly +/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
389.95	359.04	Tr IL 2½% 24 *	375.19	– .42	1.44	1.39
110.24	99.31	Tr IL 0⅛% 24	99.40	– .10	...	0.84
114.40	96.90	Tr IL 0⅛% 26	98.80	– .26	...	0.55
125.45	99.85	Tr IL 1¼% 27	104.04	– .44	1.31	0.35
120.19	93.33	Tr IL 0⅛% 28	98.84	– .51	...	0.35
121.20	92.36	Tr IL 0⅛% 29	98.49	– .58	...	0.39
380.13	301.39	Tr IL 4⅛% 30 *	337.55	–2.12	1.91	0.43
127.82	90.61	Tr IL 0⅛% 31	98.84	– .91	...	0.27
143.64	99.08	Tr IL 1¼% 32	108.39	–1.10	1.15	0.35
140.01	92.56	Tr IL 0¾% 34	102.52	–1.15	...	0.51
292.57	206.76	Tr IL 2% 35 *	240.32	–2.72	1.01	0.63
136.76	82.01	Tr IL 0⅛% 36	93.38	–1.28	...	0.64
156.97	94.08	Tr IL 1⅛% 37	105.88	–1.46	1.12	0.70
139.04	78.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 39	89.87	–1.43	...	0.81
151.42	84.60	Tr IL 0⅝% 40	96.80	–1.53	...	0.83
143.93	75.20	Tr IL 0⅛% 41	87.66	–1.56	...	0.86
158.11	82.66	Tr IL 0⅝% 42	95.35	–1.67	0.66	0.89
146.22	72.26	Tr IL 0⅛% 44	84.10	–1.72	...	0.97
148.82	70.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 46	81.92	–1.77	...	1.01
171.52	80.78	Tr IL 0¾% 47	94.10	–2.03	0.81	1.02
152.76	66.79	Tr IL 0⅛% 48	80.04	–1.88	...	1.02
168.68	72.64	Tr IL 0½% 50	87.84	–2.11	...	1.02
163.25	65.69	Tr IL 0¼% 52	81.36	–2.17	...	1.00
213.73	88.77	Tr IL 1¼% 55	107.77	–2.98	1.28	0.97
166.19	60.50	Tr IL 0⅛% 56	76.17	–2.72	...	0.96
168.83	60.14	Tr IL 0⅛% 58	75.36	–2.87	...	0.96
189.47	64.93	Tr IL 0⅜% 62	82.19	–3.43	...	0.92
187.51	55.87	Tr IL 0⅛% 65	73.90	–3.51	...	0.86
197.04	54.65	Tr IL 0⅛% 68	73.37	–3.71	...	0.84
220.30	55.40	Tr IL 0⅛% 73	76.79	–4.32	...	0.67

Longs (Over 15 years)

Stock Outstanding(£)		Stock	Price (£)	Wkly +/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
156.95	63.35	Tr 0⅛% 51	78.56	–2.04	...	1.01
81.92	44.40	Tr 1¼% 51	49.94	–1.39	...	4.35
137.68	82.51	Tr 3¾% 52	89.81	–2.02	...	4.37
87.66	46.78	Tr 1½% 53	52.40	–1.48	...	4.34
90.38	48.25	Tr 1⅝% 54	53.80	–1.52	...	4.33
154.41	90.79	Tr 4¼% 55	98.41	–2.29	4.32	4.34
94.17	49.39	Tr 1¾% 57	54.82	–1.73	...	4.28
154.62	87.32	Tr 4% 60	94.65	–2.59	...	4.29
61.14	26.21	Tr 0½% 61	30.37	–1.37	...	4.13
117.68	60.88	Tr 2½% 65	66.19	–2.11	...	4.22
149.26	79.01	Tr 3½% 68	85.37	–2.61	...	4.23
93.21	42.99	Tr 1⅝% 71	47.89	–1.95	...	4.12
77.68	32.96	Tr 1⅛% 73	37.51	–1.77	...	4.03
103.74	89.35	Tr 3¾% 53	89.35	–2.06	...	4.39
137.28	98.36	Tr 4¾% 38	105.86	–1.56	4.49	4.23
86.04	58.05	Tr 1⅛% 39	64.15	–1.15	...	4.29
131.04	92.08	Tr 4¼% 39	99.56	–1.52	4.27	4.29
132.52	91.30	Tr 4¼% 40	99.21	–1.56	...	4.31
86.08	54.72	Tr 1¼% 41	61.33	–1.21	...	4.31
119.22	76.78	Tr 3¼% 44	84.64	–1.63	...	4.39
139.42	93.79	Tr 4½% 42	102.17	–1.69	4.40	4.33
124.31	79.61	Tr 3½% 45	87.50	–1.68	...	4.40
140.41	89.35	Tr 4¼% 46	97.74	–1.89	4.35	4.41
76.89	43.93	Tr 0⅞% 46	49.91	–1.26	...	4.38
88.03	51.06	Tr 1½% 47	57.20	–1.42	...	4.39
92.94	53.78	Tr 1¾% 49	59.74	–1.48	...	4.38
144.61	89.75	Tr 4¼% 49	97.70	–2.03	4.35	4.40
69.30	35.82	Tr 0⅝% 50	40.91	–1.27	...	4.32

Mediums (5-15 years)

Stock Outstanding(£)		Stock	Price (£)	Wkly +/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
103.82	97.21	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	100.00	– .43	...	4.12
98.68	85.65	Tr 1¼% 27	90.07	– .45	...	3.85
114.02	98.23	Tr 4¼% 27	101.55	– .54	4.19	3.87
92.68	79.15	Tr 0⅛% 28	84.14	– .49	...	3.84
100.63	84.72	Tr 1⅝% 28	89.48	– .58	...	3.79
94.88	84.28	Tr 0⅜% 26	88.44	– .37	...	4.02
100.06	89.28	Tr 1½% 26	92.88	– .36	...	3.90
127.06	107.13	Tr 6% 28	110.67	– .69	5.42	3.85
92.99	77.61	Tr 0½% 29	82.66	– .58	...	3.92
95.06	78.21	Tr 0⅞% 29	83.55	– .65	...	3.78
90.09	72.39	Tr 0⅜% 30	77.89	– .74	...	3.82
124.14	101.89	Tr 4¾% 30	106.12	– .91	4.48	3.81
87.42	69.25	Tr 0¼% 31	74.81	– .79	...	3.86
92.63	73.06	Tr 1% 32	78.77	– .87	...	3.90
122.11	98.13	Tr 4¼% 32	103.05	–1.05	4.12	3.85
101.14	94.36	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	94.36	–1.05	...	3.96
89.47	68.57	Tr 0⅞% 33	74.15	– .97	...	3.98
127.21	98.89	Tr 4½% 34	104.28	–1.27	4.32	4.02
83.35	61.24	Tr 0⅝% 35	66.94	– .97	...	4.09
126.29	94.91	Tr 4¼% 36	101.50	–1.38	4.19	4.10
95.33	67.54	Tr 1¾% 37	73.73	–1.21	...	4.21
104.43	...	Tr 3¾% 38	94.50	–1.39	...	4.26

Shorts (under 5 years)

Stock Outstanding(£)		Stock	Price (£)	Wkly +/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
101.69	93.15	Tr 2% 25	95.53	– .22	...	4.05
100.88	98.11	Tr 3½% 25	98.11	– .24	...	4.33
95.25	86.33	Tr 0⅛% 26	90.46	– .30	...	3.88
97.62	90.15	Tr 0⅝% 25	93.52	– .20	...	3.94
109.47	100.77	Tr 5% 25	101.32	– .18	4.93	4.23
96.63	90.04	Tr 0¼% 25	93.32	– .15	...	4.36
102.84	96.82	Tr 2¾% 24	98.02	– .08	...	4.33
99.38	97.34	Tr 0¾% 23	99.38	+ ...	...	4.18
101.03	98.04	Tr 2¼% 23	99.35	+ ...	...	4.37
97.80	94.34	Tr 0⅛% 24	97.10	– .03	...	4.36
99.23	94.79	Tr 1% 24	96.93	– .05	...	4.45

* maturities having an eight-month indexation lag.

This is a paid for information service. For further details on a particular fund, readers should contact their fund manager.

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Business Equity prices

Dividend yields Please note that the information in the dividend yields column has been suspended due to technical problems at Morningstar, the provider.
12-month high and low Please note the 12-month high and low figures for shares supplied by Morningstar are based on intra-day figures, not closing prices.

Automobiles & parts

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
297	89½	Aston Martin Lag	260	+ 28¾	...	-1.5

Banking & finance

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
236	133	**Abrdn**	211	+ 4⅛	...	4.5
2361	1729	**Admiral**‡	2227	+ 37	...	11.3
71⅜	24½	ADVFN♦	24½	...	...	4.2
390	255⅛	AJ Bell	320	+ 4¾	...	29.9
26745¼	19844⅛	Aon Corpn	25851⅛	− 119¼	...	63.0
42¾	23⅝	Appreciate Group♦	42⅛	...	...	18.3
1002½	645	Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡	937½	− 15	...	20.7
14	9	Argo Group♦	9	...	...	4.1
286⅜	180⅞	Ashmore	233	+ ½	...	7.9
1390½	1123½	Aus New Z	1259¾	+ 3⅛	...	9.8
537	373¾	**Aviva**‡	412⅞	+ 2½	...	54.3
341½	193⅜	Banco Santander	275	...	...	6.5
3320	1270	Bank of Georgia	3320	+ 70	...	10.2
189⅝	133⅞	**Barclays**	158	+ 2	...	3.8
¼	...	Blue Star Capital♦	⅛	...	...	3.2
346	277	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	321	+ 9	...	8.8
14	6¾	Braveheart Inv♦	11¾	...	...	0.3
515	507	Brewin Dolphin	515	+ 1	...	28.1
337	173⅞	Bridgepoint‡	218¾	+ 2⅜	...	13.6
67	35	Cenkos Secs♦	37½	− ½	...	7.6
325	262½	Chesnara‡	280	...	...	15.5
53	9	City of Lon Gp♦	10	+ 1	...	-0.6
474	343½	City Lon Inv Gp	444½	− 2	...	10.4
1148	858½	Close Bros	919½	+ 12½	...	6.8
317	167	CMC Markets	181½	+ 1	...	5.5
1041⅜	499¾	Commerzbk	861⅛	+ 36	...	44.1
1075⅞	662	Deutsche Bk	847⅛	+ 5⅞	...	9.9
260⅜	135	Direct Line Ins	163⅛	+ 3¼	...	6.7
58½	57	Downing ONE VCT	57	...	...	7.7
6	...	Drumz♦	5	...	...	...
155⅝	59⅞	EFG-Hermes Hldg	64⅞	− 7⅝	...	4.1
215	122½	EPE Special Opps♦	157½	...	...	8.8
1235¾	814¼	FBD	1124	...	...	5.0
72½	67½	Fiske♦	67½	...	...	12.0
78	59	Frenkel Topping♦	68½	+ 1	...	39.8
841	548	Georgia Capital	841	+ 1	...	2.3
915	682	Gresham House♦‡	780	− 5	...	31.3
506	320	H&T Group♦‡	418	− 16	...	13.4
52½	33	Hansard Global	47⅞	...	...	16.5
983	740¾	**Hargreaves Lansdown**	799⅜	+ 4⅜	...	14.2
174⅞	143⅜	Helios Under♦	167½	+ 7½	...	...
647½	442⅛	**HSBC**‡	612⅞	+ 9⅞	...	13.3
847½	648	IG Group	704½	+ 7	...	7.1
883	500	Impax♦	814	− 3	...	26.8
1612	953⅛	Intermed Capital	1295½	+ 10	...	7.4
114	64⅜	IPF	107	+ 1	...	6.0
171⅛	136	International Public P'ship‡	141⅜	− 1	...	18.1
546⅜	351½	Investec	448	+ 10⅞	...	11.2
330	253	Investment Co	330	+ 5	...	11.8
88	52½	IP Group	55¾	+ 1¼	...	2.0
230	94	Jarvis Securities♦‡	155	− 5	...	11.1
179½	83¾	Jupiter Fund Mgmt‡	120⅞	+ 3	...	4.4
95¼	55⅞	Just Group	92	+ 1⅜	...	...
664	368½	Lancashire Holdings‡	633½	+ 7	...	...
284¼	204	**Legal & Gen**‡	232¾	+ 2⅜	...	7.1
...	...	Liberty Group	502⅝	− 2⅝	...	...
1290	704	Liontrust	809½	+ 9½	...	10.1
55¼	38	Livermore Invs♦	41	...	...	2.6
53⅞	39	**Lloyds Banking Group**‡	46½	+ ⅛	...	6.4
35	22	LMS Capital	23¼	...	...	10.1
8582	6738	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**‡	8364	+ 120	...	85.5
222⅛	159⅞	**M&G**	199¼	+ 3¼	...	62.3
286¾	204¼	Man‡	210½	...	...	8.4
29	8	Manx Fin♦	24½	...	...	12.4
3	1	Marechale Cap♦	1½	...	...	0.7
14494⅝	11526⅜	Marsh McLn	14329⅛	− 24⅞	...	29.8
760	530	Mattioli Woods♦	640	+ 10	...	...
19½	7½	Metal Tiger♦	9	+ ¾	...	3.5
153⅛	69	Metro Bank	103	+ 10¼	...	-0.7
1752¼	1387¼	Nat Aust Bk	1406⅞	+ 11⅛	...	13.9
309⅞	212⅜	**NatWest**	267⅞	+ 1½	...	10.5
341	170⅜	Numis♦‡	333½	− 6	...	6.7
587½	375⅜	Onesavings Bank	509½	+ 8½	...	6.7
652	426	PayPoint	426	+ 2½	...	13.3
6½	¼	PCF Group♦	⅞	+ ¼	...	-0.4
684⅛	506¾	**Phoenix**	570¾	+ 4	...	-6.6
260	136¼	Provident	225	...	...	4.2
1371½	797½	**Prudential**	1164	+ 12	...	18.9
2¼	⅞	Quantum Blockchain♦	1½	...	...	-8.2
148⅞	80¼	Quilter‡	83¼	+ ¾	...	59.5
140¾	57½	Randall & Quilter♦	60	+ 1⅜	...	89.4
2220	1570	Rathbone Grp	1958	+ 18	...	15.1
1⅛	½	RiverFort Global Opps♦	⅝	...	...	2.0
2040	1370	Rockwood Strategic	2040	...	...	2.9
2480	1905	S & U	2470	+ 20	...	11.6
2	¾	Sancus Lending Grp♦	¾	...	...	-0.3
56¾	40⅝	Schroder REIT	43¾	− ⅝	...	4.6
604⅜	358¾	**Schroders**	463⅜	+ 3¼	...	2.1
1304½	920	**St James Place**‡	1125	+ 10	...	21.4
790¾	519½	**Stand Chart**	642½	+ 18	...	14.4
12	7¼	Starvest♦	7½	...	...	-1.2
29	22½	STM Group♦	24½	...	...	9.4
4083⅜	3198⅛	Sun Life Can	3974¼	+ 1⅛	...	10.1
10	5¼	Tavistock Inv♦	7¾	...	...	1.2
2590	1158	TBC Bank Group‡	2475	+ 115	...	7.2
16¾	4	Tern♦	4¼	...	...	3.2
29¼	15¼	Time Finance♦	29¼	...	...	17.8
1245	900	Volvere♦	1200	...	...	...
42	18½	WH Ireland♦	21	+ ½	...	11.8
31	24	Walker Crips Grp	26	...	...	74.2
3873	2893⅛	Wells Fargo	3208	− 52¾	...	8.7
1311¼	1027	Westpac	1117	+ 2⅛	...	15.1
31	21½	Worsley Investors Ltd	29½	...	...	92.1
40948⅛	34778⅛	Zurich Fincl	37335⅛	− 963⅜	...	14.5

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	Dis(-) or Pm
1922½	1042	**3i Group**	1917½	+ 36½	...	14.4
363	281½	3i Infrastructure	325½	− ½	...	-3.3
102½	80¼	Abrdn Div I&G	87½	− ⅜	...	-25.2
1428	1066	Aberforth Smlr	1278	+ 8	...	-13.8
1046	876	Alliance	1002	+ 17	...	-7.0
457	345	Asia Dragon Tr	382	+ 2	...	-13.3
230	174	Athelney Trust	185	− 5	...	-17.2
206½	171¾	AVI Global Trust	191½	+ 1½	...	-11.1
348	204½	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	227½	− ½	...	-13.2
102⅛	73½	Baillie Gifford Eu Gr	94½	+ ¼	...	-14.8
829	657	Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr	763	+ 4	...	-9.2
168	131¼	Baillie Gifford SN	146	...	...	-9.8
183	139⅜	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	167	− ⅜	...	-13.9
109½	90⅞	Bankers	100⅜	+ ⅞	...	-10.7
5232	380	BH Macro	413	+ 2½	...	2.6
1048	745⅜	Biotech Growth	835	+ 2	...	-9.4
151	95	BlckRck Com Inc	117½	− 1⅛	...	-7.5
144½	116½	BlckRck Fro Inv	135½	− ¾	...	-9.1
553	396	BlckRck Grt Euro	552	+ 8	...	-3.6
206	165	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	189	+ 3	...	-11.0
457	330	BlckRck Latin Am	378	+ 2½	...	-14.3
215	180	BlckRck SustAm	185¾	− ½	...	-6.2
1526	1162	BlckRck Smlr	1312	− 16	...	-13.3
670	477⅞	BlckRck Throgmorton	600	+ 7	...	-6.0
774	524	BlckRck Wld Min	628	− 1	...	0.6
325	256	CT Cap&Inc	305	− 1½	...	-3.3
124⅛	68½	Balanced Comm Prop	77⅞	− 1¼	...	-33.1
162¾	122	The Glbl Smaller	145¾	+ 2	...	-13.2
534	375½	CT Priv Eq Ord	508	+ 5	...	-28.9
96⅛	60	CT Real Estate	62⅛	− 1½	...	-34.2
90	71	CT UK HIT	83	...	...	-8.4
93	79	CT UK HIT B	91	...	...	0.4
356	294	CT UK HIT UNIT	334	...	...	-7.8
1335	1072½	Brown Advsr US Sm	1202½	+ 5	...	-14.0
1115	888	Brunner	1065	+ 7½	...	-12.0
4065	3015	Caledonia Inv	3535	− 15	...	-29.8
175	141	Invesco BondInc	161½	...	...	1.4
432	366½	City of Lon IT	413	+ ½	...	2.1
122	75	Crystal Amber Fd	79	...	...	-34.0
580	454	Dunedin Entp	560	...	...	-8.0
690	537	Edinburgh IT	671	+ 3	...	-7.8
214	146⅜	Edin Wwide	150⅜	+ 3⅛	...	-18.4
336	268	EP Global Opp	327	+ 1	...	-10.0
105	74½	European Assets	93⅜	+ ¾	...	-6.4
796	608	European Opp Tr	772	+ 9	...	-12.8
989	769	**F&C Invest Tr**	905	+ 11	...	-4.9
530⅞	413½	Fidlty Asian Val	520	+ 4	...	-1.8
294¼	178⅛	Fidelity China Sp	227	− 1½	...	-9.2
360	258½	Fidlty Euro Val	357	+ 3	...	-4.5
182½	143	Fidlty Jap Tru	180	+ ¼	...	-9.0
293½	232	Fidlty Spec Val	284	+ 2½	...	-5.2
923	731¾	Fins Gwth & Inc	903	+ 2	...	-4.0
118¾	83¾	GCP Infrastructure	89⅜	+ ⅜	...	-20.0
659⅞	552⅝	Gen Emer Mkts	587	− ⅝	...	-13.2
45	28½	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	32¼	− ½	...	-15.0
168½	130⅜	Greencoat UK Wind	154½	− ⅜	...	-7.4
194⅝	166	Hansa Investment	172	− 2	...	-42.4
196	163	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	169	+ 2	...	-44.8
2489	1900	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2190	...	...	-44.2
165½	120½	Hend Euro Foc	157	...	...	-11.5
181	137¼	Hend High Inc	171½	− 1½	...	0.9
952	674¼	Hend Smlr	816	+ 10	...	-14.0
1966	1540	Herald	1750	+ 24	...	-15.2
418	310	HgCapital Trust	373½	...	...	-20.0
183⅜	138⅞	HICL Infra	150½	− 1	...	-9.1
450	216	Highbridge Tactical	389	...	...	47.5
1223¾	928	ICG Ent Tr	1124	+ 22	...	-42.2
486⅜	373⅛	Impax Env Mkts	413	+ 3½	...	-4.4
374	279	Invesco Asia Tr	318	− 1	...	-12.4
175	141	Invesco BondInc	161½	...	...	1.4
157⅜	110½	IPST Bal	131½	...	...	-13.9
258½	200	IPST Gbl Eq	231	...	...	-13.2
101¾	92	IPST Managed	91	...	...	-16.7
186	141	IPST UK Eq	162½	+ 1¼	...	-13.9
504	373½	IP UKSmallerCos	430	+ 5½	...	-12.8
800	650	JPM American	729	+ 20	...	-4.9
402	222	JPM Asia	349	+ ½	...	-8.5
451½	239½	JPM Chinese	277½	− ½	...	-9.6
726	624	JPM Claverhs	684	+ 6	...	-4.0
120⅜	91	JPM Em Mkts	104⅜	+ 1	...	-10.4
449	339	JPM Euro disc	413	+ 5	...	-15.0
142½	107½	JPM GEMI	127½	− ½	...	-9.4
481	386	JPM GG&I	463½	+ 7½	...	0.4
898	719⅞	JPM Indian	802	+ 2	...	-18.3
353	301	JPM Jap Sml Co	317	...	...	-11.9
510	408½	JPM Japan#	489	+ 6	...	-8.4
1012	735	JPM Mid Cap	906	+ 8	...	-15.2
104	85¼	JPM Multi-Ass G&I	94½	...	...	-2.8
-0.200	134¾	"JPM Em E	GBX	+ 110½	...	...
315	230	JPM Smllr Co	275½	− 1½	...	-12.4
244½	174	Keystone IT	209	+ 2½	...	-16.9
871	649	Law Debenture	814	+ 2	...	1.9
135	99	Lowland	121	− 1	...	-9.5
223	156¾	Majedie	209½	− 2	...	-16.4
354	272⅛	M Currie Port	347	+ 1½	...	0.7
117	89⅞	Marwyn Val In	96½	...	...	-41.9
222	158¼	Mercantile IT	203½	+ 1	...	-14.1
606	480	Merchants	569	+ 1	...	1.2
768	639¾	Mid Wynd	690	+ 5	...	-3.4
1102	875	Monks Inv Tst	1004	+ 22	...	-11.3
151⅛	104⅛	Montanaro Eur Sml	140¾	+ ¼	...	-12.5
897	715	Murray Income Trust	861	...	...	-7.7
275¾	225½	Murray Int	266¾	− ⅛	...	2.5
85¾	70½	Nb Global Floating	72¾	− ⅛	...	-7.4
384	258	Pacific Assets	360	+ 1	...	-6.2
309	229⅛	Pantheon Int	269½	+ ½	...	-41.0
3115	2295	**Pershing Sq**	2766	+ 24	...	-36.5
501½	463¾	Personal Assets	479	...	...	-0.3
2288¾	1697½	Polar Cap Tech	2110	+ 65	...	-13.7
202	130	Prem Glb & Inf	144½	...	...	-15.1
148½	112½	Renewables Inf	122½	− ½	...	-7.9
2570	1789⅞	RIT Cap Ptnr	1946	...	...	-17.7
750	530⅜	Riverstone	560	...	...	-53.2
457	366½	Schroder TotRt	412	+ ½	...	-3.7
549¾	446	Schrd Asia Pac	491½	+ 2½	...	-11.3
324	254½	Schrod Inc Gwth	303	− 3	...	-1.0
220⅜	187	Schrod Jap Gwth	219	+ 2	...	-11.1
626	454	Schrod UKMid	564	+ 5	...	-13.3
24¼	11½	Schroder UK PP Tr	13¾	− ½	...	-47.2
541	434	Scot American	539	+ 6	...	0.7
937¾	604¾	**Scot Mtge**	635	+ 13	...	-22.7
242	205	Secs Tst Scot	219	− ½	...	-1.0
99⅜	75½	Sequoia Eco	82⅜	− ¼	...	-9.7
249½	195⅛	Temple Bar	228½	+ 1	...	-6.1
166	128½	Tplton Emg Mkt	147⅛	+ ⅛	...	-13.7
⅜	...	Tiger Royal and Inv♦	⅛	...	...	45.8
421	263	TR Property	283	− 1	...	-8.7
76	64⅜	Troy Inc&Gth	71½	− 1⅛	...	-0.5
230	122	Utilico Ord	146	...	...	-28.2
229	197½	Utilico Emerging Mkt	227	+ 1	...	-12.6
712	500	Vietnam Ent Inv	547	− 1	...	-16.3
237½	199¾	Witan	232½	+ 2	...	-8.0
3500	2820	Ww Health	3300	+ 25	...	-10.1



Construction & property

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
189	133	Alumasc♦	174	+ 14	...	8.8
14¼	8¾	Aseana Props	9¼	...	...	-4.6
71¾	47⅝	Assura	52	− ⅛	...	10.4
2¾	1½	Aukett Swanke♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.1
393⅜	240⅜	Balfour Beatty‡	390⅜	− 3	...	18.5
514	323⅜	**Barratt Devs**‡	506⅜	+ 6⅜	...	7.9
2500	1586½	Bellway	2500	+ 44	...	7.5
4504	3165	**Berkeley**	4338	+ 38	...	11.2
1426	987	Big Yellow Group	1154	− 15	...	7.6
455	181½	Billington Hldgs♦	425	− 5	...	34.5
345	218	Boot (Henry)‡	235	...	...	12.5
536	324¾	**Br Land**	351	− 5½	...	48.0
167½	120	Caledonian Tst♦	160	...	...	31.9
64¾	43¾	Cap & Regnl‡	55	− ⅛	...	-0.4
2550	2310	Cardiff Prop	2370	...	...	25.7
25	2½	Carecapital♦	7½	...	...	-0.8
170	106	Clarke T‡	147¼	− 2½	...	10.5
291⅜	191⅝	Countryside Partner	229¾	+ 14	...	16.7
27⅞	5⅞	Craven House♦	13⅝	...	...	-0.2
4353	2756½	**CRH**	3996	+ 53	...	16.6
3044	1876	Derwent London‡	2192	− 14	...	9.7
4	3	Dolphin Capital♦	3¾	...	...	-2.6
33	22	First Prop♦	27½	− ½	...	...
47½	37½	Fletcher King♦	37½	...	...	...
44	27¼	Foxtons Group‡	37⅞	− ¼	...	...
185⅛	145	Galliford Try	181	+ 2	...	40.2
470	252½	Genuit Group‡	339	+ 41	...	20.5
600	335	Gleeson (MJ)	462	+ 18	...	7.2
988⅝	630½	Grafton	859⅝	+ 13	...	9.9
312¾	205⅜	Grainger	255	− ⅛	...	15.8
674	409⅛	Great Portland	497⅜	− 1	...	-6.2
30½	17⅛	Hammerson	25⅛	− ¼	...	-2.7
171	101	Harworth Gp‡	125	+ 2	...	4.3
630	425	Heath (Samuel)♦	425	...	...	8.8
442	274	Helical PLC	274	− 2	...	6.6
1065	865	Highcroft Invs‡	865	...	...	3.7
208⅛	148¼	Ibstock	167	+ 3	...	21.6
234	176	James Halstead♦‡	212	...	...	22.5
849	591	Keller	716	+ 44	...	8.3
6802¼	3912⅞	Kingspan Group	5628¾	+ 217	...	22.1
774½	485¼	**Land Sec**	620½	− 7¾	...	...
102¼	58	Life Science Reit	75⅜	+ 1⅜	...	...
25	13	Lon & Assoc	13	− ½	...	-1.7
261	161¾	Londonmetric Property	183⅞	− 4	...	3.9
61¾	37	Macau Prop Op	59½	− ¼	...	-7.7
545½	225⅜	Marshalls	297⅛	+ 7⅛	...	10.8
118	74	Michelmersh♦	92	− ½	...	14.6
2120	1392	Morgan Sindall‡	1830	− 12	...	8.9
13900	10800	Mountview	11100	− 100	...	13.8
99½	68¼	NewRiver REIT	84	− ⅛	...	-2.9
291	195	Palace Capital	243	+ 11	...	11.6
335	260	Panther Securities♦	300	− 10	...	2.7
2254	1138½	**Persimmon**	1343	+ 23½	...	5.4
5½	2	Pires Investments♦	2	...	...	-4.5
65	30	Plaza Cent	30	...	...	...
148½	98⅝	Primary Health Properties‡	105	− 1⅝	...	10.7
39	28¼	Real Estate Invs♦	30½	...	...	3.9
585	372½	Redrow	542	+ 7	...	6.7
1177	794	Safestore	940	− 14	...	5.3
1190	763½	Savills‡	909	+ 13	...	9.1
6¼	5⅝	Secure Property♦	5⅝	...	...	14.8
1129	694	**Segro**	802⅛	− 12¾	...	2.3
44⅜	27¾	SIG	41¼	+ ¼	...	...
69	37⅜	SigmaRoc♦	59¾	− 1⅛	...	...
116⅜	66½	Sirius Real Estate	78¼	− ½	...	6.1
173½	160½	Smart (J)‡	164½	...	...	4.5
50	29¾	Steppe Cement♦	37¼	...	...	8.5
132⅜	85	**Taylor Wimpey**	126¼	+ ⅝	...	8.3
178½	129	Town Centre‡	141	+ 2½	...	5.5
1223½	738	Travis Perkins‡	935⅛	+ 15½	...	9.1
204¾	125⅝	Tritax Big Box Reit‡	143⅛	− 4¼	...	2.5
98¼	57	Tritax Eurobox	64⅛	− 5	...	...
306½	184½	Tyman‡	260	+ 6	...	10.2
1207	791½	**Unite**‡	900	− 18½	...	10.5
938½	519½	Vistry Group‡	851	+ 37	...	7.4
166	91	Warehouse REIT	104½	− 2	...	2.4
722	343⅜	Workspace Grp	469	− 4⅛	...	-6.9
755	622½	Wynnstay Props♦	665	+ 15	...	4.8

Consumer goods

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5¾	1	Agriterra♦	1¼	...	...	-0.1
39½	25½	Airea♦‡	36	+ 2	...	13.3
952	740	Anglo-Eastern	840	− 21	...	7.7
306	147½	Animalcare♦	182½	...	...	...
2070	1237	**AB Foods**	1905½	+ 21	...	31.5
121	79	Bakkavor Group‡	94⅜	+ 2⅜	...	9.8
569	432	Barr (AG)‡	518	+ 1	...	18.3
3⅞	1½	Bidstack Group♦	1¾	...	...	-1.4
68	24½	Brand Architekts♦	32½	...	...	-1.4
3628	2656	**Brit Amer Tob**	2656	− 18½	...	8.9
936	707½	Britvic	919	+ 5	...	20.8
2641	1542½	**Burberry**	2389	− 131	...	20.5
212½	140⅝	C&C Grp	153¾	+ ¾	...	-9.1
7⅛	2⅛	Capital Metals♦	4¼	...	...	-1.1
145	92	Carr's Grp‡	142	...	...	17.5
575	320	Character Grp♦	320	− 2	...	5.7
1640	1070	Churchill China♦‡	1360	− 10	...	...
2548	1674	**Coca Cola HBC**	2548	+ 13	...	20.3
880	610	Colefax♦	752½	...	...	13.3
3340	2586	Cranswick	3144	+ 44	...	16.6
329	164	Devro	329	...	...	17.8
3960	3410½	**Diageo**	3535	+ 35	...	27.1
1⅜	⅜	Distil♦	½	...	...	13.7
1000	784	Evans (M.P.)♦‡	832	...	...	7.1
103½	67	Finsbury Food♦	93	...	...	11.0
9920	5690	Games Workshop‡	9745	+ 15	...	26.8
1215⅛	846¼	Glanbia	1215⅛	− 6⅞	...	29.9
114½	60¾	Greencore	78¼	− 1¾	...	15.6
355	231	Headlam‡	271	− 6	...	11.6
1218	500	Hilton Food	736	+ 3	...	15.3
31½	22	Hornby♦	23	− ½	...	...
2185	1668½	**Imperial Brands**	1786	− 33½	...	5.9
1½	1¼	J Lewis Hford♦	1⅜	...	...	8.2
9481½	7273	Kerry Gp	8519⅛	+ 230	...	23.6
36¼	15½	McBride	31	+ ⅜	...	-5.5
305	205	Mulberry Group♦	245	− 5	...	10.1
1460	986½	Nichols♦	1015	− 40	...	...
255	165	Norcros	176	+ 3	...	5.5
381⅜	296⅝	Origin Ents♦	312⅜	− 21⅝	...	9.8
14½	⅛	Pittards♦	6⅜	...	...	3.0
512½	300	Portmeirion♦‡	505	+ 15	...	21.5
1	⅝	Provexis♦	⅝	...	...	0.3
221	170⅜	PZ Cussons	199¾	+ 2⅜	...	23.0
164	92½	REA	95¾	− 1¼	...	-7.5
2⅜	1	Real Gd Fd♦	1⅛	...	...	0.1
350	235	Tandem♦‡	240	...	...	3.4
904	507	Treatt	690	− 10	...	27.7
3¼	1¾	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2¼	...	...	-1.5
5051	4076½	Unilever (NV)	...	...	...	...
4443½	3451½	**Unilever**‡	4265	− 50	...	21.9
660	317	Victoria♦	493½	+ 8	...	...

Engineering

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
...	...	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-3.5
1222	739	Avon Rubber	968	+ 5	...	...
367½	268½	Babcock	320¾	+ 2½	...	-1.9
1032	714	**BAE**	992	+ 5½	...	18.1
2150	1300	Braime A N/V♦‡	1300	...	...	14.6
1750	1480	Braime Group♦‡	1750	+ 100	...	19.7
602½	500	Caffyns	550	...	...	7.9
5	1¼	Cap XX Ld♦	1¼	...	...	-2.8
380	279	Castings	375	− 2	...	18.1
5	3¼	Chamberlin♦	3⅜	...	...	-0.2
36	14	Checkit♦	28	...	...	-3.4
560	391	Cohort♦	502	+ 3	...	44.6
400	181½	Crestchic Plc♦	399	...	...	...
1390	1020⅜	Dewhurst♦	1075	...	...	12.3
359½	192¼	Dialight	223	...	...	...
1342⅞	886⅞	Electrolux 'B'	1226⅛	− 4⅞	...	9.2
182½	85½	Feedback♦	118½	...	...	...
940	426	Gooch Hsego♦	578	+ 6	...	42.8
4300	2400	Goodwin	4250	− 120	...	23.4
2484	1876½	**Halma**	2484	+ 39	...	35.9
1448	893	Hill & Smith	1338	− 2	...	31.4
121½	71½	Holders Tech♦‡	76	...	...	4.6
2¼	¾	Image Scan♦	2⅛	...	...	12.6
1674	1071	IMI	1651	+ 26	...	22.5
...	...	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
10025	6740	Judges Scientific♦	9480	+ 60	...	47.8
85½	71½	LPA♦	80½	...	...	...
798¾	768⅛	Meggitt	798¾	+ ⅛	...	...
510⅜	286½	**Melrose**	490¼	+ 2¼	...	...
325	217	Morgan Advanced	294½	+ 4	...	12.4
435	227½	Mpac♦	240	...	...	6.3
745	260	MS Intl♦	475	...	...	67.8
2855	1720	Oxford Inst	2760	− 10	...	37.7
2121¼	1057⅞	Philips El nv	...	...	...	...
18½	12¼	PipeHawk♦	12½	...	...	26.6
92½	23⅛	Pressure Tech♦#	44½	+ ½	...	-3.7
4338	3342	Renishaw	3784	+ 80	...	21.5
29½	20½	Renold♦	28½	− ¾	...	10.1
158	66⅛	**Rolls-Royce**	155½	+ 2⅝	...	...
1¾	⅝	Ross Gp	⅝	...	...	-1.6
338½	229½	Rotork‡	338½	+ 8⅜	...	36.8
200	144	SDI Group♦	147	+ 1	...	24.2
181⅛	111	Senior‡	181⅛	+ 4½	...	31.6
67	48	Severfield	64	− 1	...	11.4
15½	8	Six Hundred♦	8⅝	...	...	50.4
1669⅞	1124⅜	SKF B	1400⅛	+ 30⅜	...	10.3
300	200	Slingsby (HC)♦	300	...	...	4.9
1797½	1364	**Smiths**	1704½	+ 24	...	27.1
1435	986	Solid State♦	1125	...	...	27.1
470	324	Somero Enter♦	325	...	...	7.2
3841	2690	Spectris‡	3811	− 12	...	12.5
12350	9130	**Spirax-Sarco**‡	11130	+ 115	...	35.0
57½	28½	Surface Trsfms♦	35½	...	...	...
3½	1½	Tanfield♦	2¾	− ⅜	...	-7.9
445	345	Thorpe FW♦	362	...	...	25.1
2⅝	⅝	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
95½	48½	Transense Tech♦	86½	...	...	63.6
3500	3070	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+ 6	...	37.4
435	284½	Vesuvius‡	410¾	− ½	...	10.9
1530	692	Videndum‡	692	− 28	...	12.7
323½	202	Volex♦	277	+ 2	...	15.1
2021	1328½	**Weir**‡	1809	+ 26	...	30.5
3435	1464	XP Power	2240	+ 20	...	11.9
182½	98	Zytronic♦	102½	...	...	34.1

Health

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1454	1058	Abcam♦	1226	+ 123	...	...
316	219½	AdvancedMedical♦‡	248½	− 4½	...	39.0
22	5	Allergy Therap♦#	6¼	+ 1¼	...	-7.3
156	16½	Angle♦	20¼	− ¾	...	-2.7
603	185	Anpario♦	210	...	...	11.0
12294	9656	**AstraZeneca**	11978	+ 54	...	...
37¼	29	Circassia Group♦	34	...	...	34.0
248½	199	**Convatec**‡	226	+ 10¾	...	52.7
59	25⅜	Creighton	35	...	...	6.7
3810	2520	Dechra Pharma	3642	+ 22	...	54.3
1½	¾	Deltex Medical♦	1⅜	...	...	-8.5
23¼	10½	e-Therapeutics♦	12⅜	− ⅛	...	...
130	82½	Eco Animal Hlth♦	112½	...	...	13.6
51	24⅞	EKF Diagnostics♦	24⅞	+ ⅛	...	7.0
56⅞	26⅜	Futura Medical♦	41	− ⅛	...	...
3272	2298	Genus	2458	− 26	...	43.7
1820⅝	1296	**GSK**‡	1423¾	− 18½	...	16.4
⅝	¼	Gunsynd♦	⅜	...	...	3.6
353½	246⅛	**Haleon**	337½	− 2¼	...	...
1874	1190½	Hikma Pharms	1830	− 5	...	13.7
335	134½	Hutchmed China♦	218	− 3	...	...
...	...	Immunodiag Sys♦	378	...	...	...
6⅞	1½	ImmuPharma♦	3¼	+ ¼	...	-1.0
7025	1365	Indivior	1485	+ 3	...	85.0
105	44½	Inspiration Health♦	46	+ 3½	...	7.1
41½	18¾	IXICO♦	19¾	...	...	6.3
501½	350	Mediclinic	500	+ ½	...	31.2

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
3½	1½	N4 Pharma♦	1¾	...	...	-2.1
93.95	73.33	Novartis	CHF 91.06	– 1.44	...	10.3
4	2¼	Omega Diags♦	2½	...	...	-0.9
11½	4¾	Ovoca Bio♦	8¼	+ 1	...	-2.3
562	297	Oxford Biomedica	437	+ 13	...	19.6
5	2	Physiomics♦	2¾	...	...	...
5	3¼	Proteome Scies♦	4⅞	– ⅛	...	...
6808	5556	**Reckitt Benckiser**‡	6508	+ 32	...	...
63½	31⅜	RUA Life Sciences♦	41½	+ 2½	...	-4.0
230	70	Sareum Hldgs♦	125	+ 2½	...	...
1321½	984½	**Smith & Neph**	1297	– 4½	...	29.4
250	203	Spire Hcare	239½	...	...	...
35	7⅜	Synairgen♦	9½	– ¼	...	-0.4
70	42	Tissue Regenix♦	54½	...	...	...
46½	15½	Totally♦	20⅝	...	...	32.7
420	295	Tristel♦	332½	...	...	68.5
27½	8⅞	ValiRx♦	9¾	...	...	...

Industrials

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
135	54⅜	Accsys Tech♦	66	+ 1¾	...	...
4711½	3387⅛	BASF	4118⅞	+ 46	...	8.1
5818¾	4133⅞	Bayer DM50	4696½	+ 27¾	...	54.8
205	46½	Biome Tech♦	120	– 2½	...	-4.0
3⅝	1½	Byotrol♦	1½	...	...	...
7	6¾	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
79	50⅞	Coats Grp‡	70¾	+ 2½	...	15.8
7482	5908	**Croda**‡	6332	– 10	...	27.5
1125	575	Cropper (James)♦	920	+ 25	...	28.0
129	87⅝	Elementis	117½	+ 1⅛	...	...
29	11	Hardide♦	12¼	– 1¼	...	-2.3
2373	1784	**Johnson Math**	1908½	+ 19½	...	24.0
1705	1242	**Mondi**	1277	+ 9½	...	9.7
100	77½	Robinson♦	93½	...	...	...
368½	241¾	**DS Smith**	315⅞	+ 3¼	...	17.9
735¾	440¼	Swire Pacific	575½	– 1	...	...
19	6⅞	Symph Environ♦	6⅞	– ⅜	...	...
332¾	88	Synthomer	109½	+ 1⅝	...	2.2
2749⅞	2099⅞	Takeda Pharm	2596⅝	+ 3⅜	...	14.5
7	3	Velocys♦	3¼	...	...	-4.2
1931	1504	Victrex	1555	+ 9	...	18.5
651	425	Wynnstay Group♦	425	...	...	9.7
410	233	Zotefoams‡	370	– 10	...	22.2

Leisure

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
210⅜	51⅝	888 Hldgs	79	– 3¼	...	5.8
846	542	Accesso Tech♦	702	+ 4	...	18.4
680	370	Best of the Best♦	575	...	...	6.4
1080	501⅜	Carnival	786¾	+ 21½	...	-1.2
135	108	Celtic♦	127½	...	...	12.6
28¼	¾	Cineworld	1⅛	+ ⅛	...	...
339	215⅛	Domino's Pizza	293¾	– ½	...	14.9
1587½	1075½	**Entain**	1476	+ 1½	...	33.0
16080	7614	**Flutter Ent**	16080	– 120	...	...
32¾	22	Gaming Realms♦	31¼	– ⅞	...	...
290	290	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
185	65	Heavitree A♦	110	...	...	6.6
145	120	Hermes Pacific♦	120	...	...	...
5784	4193	**InterContinental Hotels**	5424	+ 46	...	50.8
1¼	¾	Minoan Gp♦	1	...	...	-7.8
215¾	102	Mitch & Butlers	208⅜	+ 9¼	...	...
240½	92½	On The Beach	104½	– 2¾	...	-5.5
1600	1020	PPHE Hotels‡	1075	– 5	...	-8.7
112	52⅜	Rank Grp	103	– 1⅜	...	13.9
56½	26⅝	Restaurant Gp	49⅜	+ ½	...	-9.3
50½	30½	Rotala♦	46½	...	...	...
25	15½	Sportech♦	20⅞	+ ⅝	...	...
277⅞	184¾	SSP	267½	+ 4	...	-5.2
5¾	1⅞	Tasty♦	3	...	...	4.1
295	65	Tintra♦	91½	...	...	-1.6
704⅜	290⅝	Tui	536⅜	– 3⅛	...	-5.6
3⅛	1⅛	Webis Holdings♦	1⅜	...	...	...
783½	389¾	Wetherspoon JD	764	+ 8	...	-7.1
3303	2285	**Whitbread**	3303	+ 22	...	...
1340	870	Young & Co - A♦	1185	+ 25	...	...
835	564	Young & Co - N/V♦	759	+ 10	...	...

Media

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
⅝	⅛	7digital Gp♦	⅝	...	...	-5.7
88	52½	Aeorema Comms♦	80	...	...	22.1
48	20½	Altitude Group♦	43	...	...	...
85½	70½	Arcontech Grp♦	72½	...	...	10.0
315½	176⅛	Ascential	244⅜	– 2½	...	...
675	486⅛	**Auto Trader**	641¾	+ 4⅜	...	31.6
492	366	Bloomsbury Pub	435	+ 3½	...	17.9
8	3¼	Bonhill Group♦	4¾	– ¼	...	...
172½	71	Catalyst Media♦	140	...	...	...
¼	⅛	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
...	...	Daily Mail‡	270	– 2½	...	10.3
150	100	DCD Media♦#	100	– 30	...	5.0
64½	43	Ebiquity♦	48	...	...	...
1466	965	Euromoney In Inv	1460	+ 2	...	...
2060	880	Future	880	– 166	...	15.1
1400	930	GlobalData♦	1305	...	...	64.6
120¾	50	Hyve Group	120½	+ ⅛	...	...
196	46½	IG Design Grp♦	157½	– 2½	...	23.0
722½	501¾	**Informa**	722½	+ 15¾	...	...
90	55⅛	ITV‡	75⅜	+ 1⅛	...	8.1
10¼	4⅛	Jaywing♦	4⅝	...	...	...
9⅜	1¾	Live Company Gp♦	2	...	...	-0.4
...	...	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-5.2
47	26½	Merit Grp♦	44	...	...	...
52½	6½	Mirada♦	6½	– 12½	...	-0.2
68½	42	Mission Group♦	50½	– ½	...	8.5
280⅜	167	Moneysupermarket	260⅛	– 3⅛	...	26.5
1714½	1193¾	News Corp A	1507⅞	– ¾	...	24.6
1730⅜	1219⅜	News Corp B	1514	– 2¾	...	24.7
1326	755	Next 15 Comms♦	799	– 25	...	...
995⅛	734½	**Pearson**	833¾	+ 5½	...	39.8
107	65⅛	Photo-Me	107	+ 5	...	18.6
4⅜	2	Primorus Inv♦	3	– ⅛	...	5.4
187½	108½	Quarto	166½	+ ½	...	9.2
125	67	Reach‡	76	– ⅜	...	84.4
1⅜	¾	REACT Grp♦	1⅜	...	...	19.6
2722	2081	**Relx**‡	2500	+ 36	...	32.9
663	445⅜	**Rightmove**‡	555	– 3	...	31.4
140	65	SpaceandPeople♦	92½	...	...	...
315	245	STV Group‡	252	+ 2	...	6.1
310	122½	System1 Group♦	185	– 5	...	8.8
2964¼	2249½	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2512⅛	– 16⅞	...	13.7
2743¾	2121¾	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2316¼	– 15¼	...	12.7
...	...	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	6.3
356	222	Wilmington	298	+ 6	...	18.9
1051½	725¾	**WPP**	894⅜	+ 6	...	17.0
117½	77½	Zinc Media♦	109	+ 2½	...	-6.9

Natural resources

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1	⅜	ADM Energy♦	⅝	...	...	...
⅛	...	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
33⅞	17¾	AFC Energy♦	18	– ⅛	...	...
...	...	Afentra PLC	...	...	...	...
⅛	...	Alba Mineral Res♦	...	...	...	-2.1
¾	⅜	Alien Metals♦	⅜	...	...	...
91½	65	Alumina	75⅞	...	...	15.8
1¼	⅝	Aminex	1	...	...	-6.3
1¾	⅝	Amur Mins Corp♦	1⅝	...	...	...
727114½	4611⅝	Anglo Amer Plat	4611⅝	– 165⅝	...	3.3
4017½	2328½	**Anglo American**	2328½	– 41½	...	4.6
121	64	Anglo Asian Mng♦	107½	...	...	9.3
1805	991½	**Antofagasta**	1410	– 16½	...	14.5
4⅞	2⅞	Arc Minerals♦	3⅜	...	...	2.5
3⅞	2½	Ariana Res♦	2½	...	...	3.4
¾	⅜	Arkle Resources♦	⅜	...	...	-1.4
3⅝	1¼	Armadale Cap♦	1¼	...	...	...
2	⅞	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	⅞	...	...	...
402½	188	Atalaya Mine♦	336	– 1	...	4.2
¼	...	Baron Oil♦	...	...	...	...
6	1⅞	Beowulf Mining♦	2	...	...	-8.7
⅛	...	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-0.8
2855	2034	BHP Group	2355	– 2	...	10.3
5½	1¾	Border & Sthn Pet♦	2⅝	...	...	...
21⅞	13⅞	Bougainville	19⅝	– ¼	...	...
4¾	1	BowLeven♦	1	...	...	-1.3
567½	363⅞	**BP**‡	480½	+ 2⅛	...	17.4
16⅝	8¾	Cadence Min♦	10	...	...	1.0
3½	1⅝	Cadogan Petrol	1⅝	– ¼	...	23.6
1350	825	Caledonia Mining♦	1050	– 20	...	10.2
261¾	196½	Capricorn Energy‡	196¾	– 1	...	1.5
8⅜	2¼	Caspian Sunrise♦	6	...	...	...
125½	74⅜	Centamin	104⅝	– 2⅜	...	16.2
292½	202	Cent Asia Metals♦‡	202	– 2	...	5.9
16½	7⅜	Chaarat Gold♦	10⅜	– ⅞	...	...
23	13½	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	16⅜	+ ¼	...	...
6	1¼	China Nonferr Gold♦	1¾	...	...	...
½	...	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-2.0
35¾	15¼	Condor Gld♦	29¼	+ ½	...	...
1⅜	⅛	Corcel♦	¼	...	...	-0.3
10256¼	92¾	DRD Gold	92¾	– 1	...	10.9
1¼	½	ECR Minerals♦	½	...	...	-3.4
21	4¾	Edenville Energy♦	5¾	+ ¾	...	-0.3
1½	⅝	Empyrean Energy♦	1⅛	...	...	-8.5
2184	1461	**Endeavour**	1995	– 23	...	29.6
35¾	15⅝	EnQuest	16½	+ ½	...	1.0
8½	2½	Eurasia Mining♦	2½	...	...	...
3	⅞	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1⅛	...	...	10.4
193⅛	97½	Ferrexpo	104	+ 3	...	0.8
968	644	**Fresnillo**‡	659½	– 4⅛	...	15.6
...	...	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
39	18½	Galantas Gold♦	18½	...	...	-3.1
7¼	2¾	GCM Resources♦	2¾	...	...	-2.3
61¾	22⅝	Gem Diamonds	22⅝	– 1	...	2.3
31½	12⅛	Getech♦	15	+ ¼	...	-3.5
578	400	**Glencore**‡	435¼	– 1	...	15.9
½	⅛	Global Petrol♦	⅛	...	...	-2.1
134829⅜	1217⅝	Gold Fields	1217⅝	– 34	...	18.7
12½	7¼	Goldplat♦	8¼	...	...	6.2
8¼	2½	Goldstone Res♦	3⅛	...	...	...
13¼	6¾	Greatld Gld♦	7⅜	...	...	...
99¾	70	Griffin Mining♦	88⅜	– ½	...	9.7
310	129⅝	Gulf Keystone	132½	– 1⅝	...	8.3
25⅞	5⅝	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	14⅞	– ½	...	1.2
115¼	51½	Hochschild	79⅝	– ½	...	7.7
168	85	Horizonte Minrls♦	140	...	...	...
356½	187½	Hunting PLC	202	– 3	...	-5.1
106½	15½	IGas Energy♦	15½	– ½	...	-0.7
⅜	...	Independ Res♦	...	...	...	...
317	195	Indus Gas♦	195	...	...	20.2
¾	¼	Ironveld♦	¼	...	...	-4.9
318⅜	69⅛	ITM Power♦	69⅛	...	...	...
15½	7⅛	Jubilee Metals♦	7¾	...	...	6.5
3	1⅝	Karel Diamd Res♦	2½	...	...	...
1	½	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	⅞	...	...	-3.6
495	380½	Kenmare Res‡	440	– 3	...	5.1
27⅞	5¾	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
23½	11¾	Landore Res♦	12¼	+ ½	...	-2.7
½	⅜	Lansdowne O&G♦	⅜	...	...	...
16	12½	Leeds Group♦	12½	...	...	-2.0
8¼	1⅞	Lexington Gold♦	8¼	...	...	...
21½	3⅛	MC Mining♦	9¾	...	...	-2.0
2¼	¾	Metals Explorn♦	1⅞	...	...	3.2
⅝	⅛	Nostra Terra♦	⅛	...	...	-1.1
26½	⅛	Nostrum O&G#	10	+ ¼	...	...
...	...	Oil Search	218⅞	– 5⅜	...	60.3
⅛	⅛	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
¼	...	Oriole Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-2.0
⅞	½	Ormonde Mining♦#	¾	...	...	-3.1
17⅛	4⅝	Orosur Mining♦	4⅝	...	...	-6.9
22¼	12¾	Pan African Res♦	16⅞	– ¾	...	5.5
140¼	17⅛	Pantheon Res♦	17⅛	...	...	...
79	21¼	Parkmead Grp♦	21¼	– ½	...	-1.8
⅝	⅜	Pathfinder Mins♦	½	...	...	-4.1
120	66⅞	Petra Diamonds	67	...	...	2.2
3¾	1¼	Petrel Resources♦	1¼	...	...	-6.7
6⅜	1⅝	Petro Matad♦	6⅛	– ¼	...	...
157⅞	46	Petrofac	75⅜	+ 9⅛	...	-1.9
1⅛	...	Petroneft Res♦	...	...	...	-0.3
2½	⅞	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	– ⅛	...	1.6
7½	3¾	Phoenix Global♦	6½	+ ¼	...	-1.6
4½	1⅝	Plexus Holdings♦	2⅝	...	...	-0.6
350	168	Polymetal Intl	251⅛	– 9¾	...	...
698	499	Porvair‡	648	+ 18	...	24.9
19¼	3¾	Prospex Energy♦	9	+ ¼	...	...
14⅝	8½	Proton Motor Power S♦	10¼	...	...	-1.8
4	1¾	Providence Res♦	3¼	...	...	29.0
2¾	1	Quadrise Fuels Intl♦	1½	– ⅛	...	-5.8
27¼	2	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	...	...	0.1
⅜	⅛	Reabold Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-2.7
⅝	⅛	Red Rock Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.8
6874	4698¼	Rio Tinto Ltd	5861¼	+ 82½	...	6.1
6377	4486	**Rio Tinto**	4936	– 34½	...	5.1
41⅛	19⅞	San Leon Energy♦	27	– ½	...	10.1
½	⅛	Scirocco Energy♦	¼	...	...	...
47	22½	Serabi Gold♦	32	...	...	4.3
450	207½	Serica Energy♦	225½	+ ½	...	...
13½	8½	Shanta Gold♦‡	11⅜	+ ⅛	...	7.1
2604½	1936⅜	**Shell**‡	2393	– 3½	...	12.6
2⅞	⅞	Sound Energy♦	1¾	...	...	11.3
⅛	...	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...	...	...
¼	...	Tertiary Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-3.7
⅝	⅛	Thor Mining♦	¼	...	...	-1.7
5335¾	3900⅝	Total Eng SE	4837⅛	+ 41⅝	...	11.0
¼	...	Tower Resources♦	...	...	...	-0.9
57⅛	24⅜	Tullow Oil	24⅜	+ 1⅝	...	2.4
⅛	...	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-2.3
418	135	URU Metals♦	150	...	...	4.8
1¼	⅛	Vast Res♦	⅝	...	...	-0.1
...	...	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	...	...	-1.8
...	...	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
3¾	2⅛	Westmount Engy♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.4
251⅝	104½	Wood Grp (J)	139	+ 3⅞	...	-5.7
6⅝	⅜	Woodbois♦	½	...	...	2.2
5½	1¼	Xtract Resources♦	1⅝	...	...	-2.9
7¼	4	Zephyr Energy♦	4	...	...	-5.2

Professional & support services

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5090	2240	4imprint Grp‡	4705	+ 180	...	79.4
555	460	Andrews Sykes♦	537½	...	...	17.1
5874	3359	**Ashtead**	4960	+ 161	...	24.1
23	1	Asimilar Group♦	1¼	...	...	...
133½	54	AssetCo♦	54	...	...	0.3
53½	38½	Avisen♦	50½	...	...	...
148	117	Begbies Traynor♦	130	+ 1¼	...	...
207	155	Blancco Tech♦	172½	...	...	61.8
3225	2575	**Bunzl**‡	3166	+ 4	...	24.0
42⅝	22⅝	Capita	32⅛	+ ¼	...	2.4
45	36	CEPS♦	39	...	...	-8.8
150	105½	Christie Group♦	132½	– 17½	...	56.3
2228	1641	**Compass**	2228	+ 14	...	54.2
252	97	CPPGroup♦	195	– 8	...	...
77	47¼	Croma Security♦	47½	– ¼	...	6.8
6268	4030	**DCC**	4990	+ 132	...	16.4
114½	39⅝	De La Rue	41¾	+ 2⅛	...	5.5
3084	2158	Diploma	3084	+ 72	...	55.1
914	597	Discoverie	820	– 6	...	67.2
34½	23½	Driver Group♦	33	...	...	15.7
325½	175⅛	Essentra‡	194	– ⅜	...	21.8
3160	2285	**Experian**	2802	+ 67	...	35.9
12380	8680	Ferguson	12000	+ 320	...	17.7
270	215	FIH Group♦	270	...	...	...
11	5¼	Grafenia♦	10	...	...	-7.4
588	317	Hargeaves Serv♦	396½	+ 4	...	4.1
735	450	Impellam Grp♦	670	+ 17½	...	36.6
24⅝	4	Ince G♦#	5⅛	...	...	2.9
4985	3619	**Intertek**	4115	+ 75	...	23.1
251⅜	115⅜	IWG	149⅞	+ ½	...	-5.7
125⅜	77	Johnson Srvce♦	119	...	...	74.3
181½	106	Journeo♦	169½	...	...	38.0
80¼	56½	Kier Gp	80¼	+ 2⅜	...	7.8
1400	1080	Latham (J)♦	1235	...	...	6.7
1032½	695	Lok'n Store♦‡	856	+ 14	...	25.9
3850	2300	Lon Security♦	2750	+ 300	...	15.1
395	220	LSL Prop Services‡	282	– 8	...	7.8
125½	86	Macfarlane‡	110	...	...	12.7
325	90	Maintel Hldgs♦	105	...	...	3.2
2200	8¼	Malvern Intl♦	16½	...	...	...
242	182	Mears Group	240	– 1½	...	20.8
608	590	Menzies (John)	607	– 1	...	48.0
94⅜	52	Mitie Gp	93½	– ¾	...	46.8
13¾	3¾	MobilityOne♦	5½	...	...	4.0
56½	25	Newmark Sec♦	53½	– 2½	...	...
6¾	3½	Norm Broadbent♦	5¼	...	...	-9.9
61½	37	Northern Bear♦	50	...	...	5.1
286	217	NWF Grp♦	267½	+ 5	...	...
491½	362⅛	PageGroup‡	440½	– 2¾	...	11.9
68	46	PCI-PAL♦	51½	– ½	...	...
12	7	Petards♦	7	...	...	12.7
26½	13	PHSC♦	13½	– 2	...	24.5
2⅜	⅝	PowerHouse Egy♦	⅝	...	...	-1.1
98	61	Record	86	– ⅜	...	23.6
437½	283½	Redde Northgate	391	+ 5	...	9.8
750	555	Renew Hldgs♦	738	+ 4	...	18.2
851	489	Renewi	607	– 5	...	12.8
644⅜	445	**Rentokil**	644	– 3⅜	...	45.6
466	270	Restore♦	270	+ 1	...	32.1
600	331½	Ricardo	586	+ 14	...	52.3
600	408	Robert Walters‡	420	+ 1	...	9.6
20	11½	Roebuck Food Grp♦	15	...	...	2.2
239	95⅜	RPS Group	221	– 1	...	...
1159	812	**RS Group**	862⅜	+ 16½	...	21.8
24	16	RTC Group♦	17	...	...	...
442½	238½	RWS Hldgs♦	249	+ 1¾	...	22.8
440	365	Science Group♦‡	400	– 4	...	18.4
188¼	145⅞	Serco‡	148⅞	– ½	...	6.0
57½	27½	Smiths News	51¾	+ ⅛	...	5.0
3596	2452	**Smurfit Kappa**	2976	+ 38	...	13.5
50½	32½	Staffline Gp♦	37⅝	– 2	...	29.0
484½	317½	SThree‡	405½	+ 2½	...	13.1
137½	95	Synectics♦	107½	– 2½	...	...
30	21⅝	Thruvision Group♦	25½	...	...	-9.2
94	35	Tribal♦	39⅞	...	...	12.4
89	49	Vianet♦	77½	...	...	...
980	615	Vp	647½	– 7½	...	15.9
2⅜	1	Westminster♦	1⅛	...	...	-1.5

Real estate

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
164¾	95½	Shaftesbury Cap	118⅜	...	...	34.8

Retailing

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
81¼	37⅞	AO World	67⅝	– 1¾	...	...
503⅛	295½	**B&M European**	493½	+ 4⅛	...	11.4
42⅝	20¼	Brown (N)♦	26⅞	+ ⅞	...	7.9
112½	40⅜	Card Factory	94⅛	– 4¼	...	...
2150	1549	CVS Group♦	2150	– 12	...	60.2
194	104¾	DFS Furn‡	119	– 3⅜	...	6.3
1275	670½	Dunelm	1154	+ 5	...	15.5
949½	600	**Frasers Group**	775½	+ 8½	...	34.4
2904	1673	Greggs‡	2762	– 18	...	24.1
229⅜	124⅝	Halfords	202½	+ ⅛	...	6.7
743½	480⅞	Howden Joinery‡	688	+ 8¾	...	12.9
941	666	Inchcape‡	795½	+ 12	...	26.8
4¼	1⅝	IQ-AI	2¾	...	...	-7.8
186⅝	89⅛	**JD Sports**	172⅝	+ 9⅝	...	20.8
291½	203	**Kingfisher**	244⅛	+ 2¾	...	6.1
94¼	61½	Lookers‡	83⅞	+ ⅞	...	5.4
169¼	93⅛	Marks & Spencer	161⅞	– 1⅞	...	...
11⅛	5⅞	Mothercare♦	5⅞	+ ⅛	...	-3.7
371	75½	Naked Wines♦	104	– 1½	...	...
7076	4383	**Next**	6694	+ 44	...	12.7
952½	393	**Ocado**	397⅝	– 12½	...	...
28⅜	14⅞	Pendragon	17⅝	– ⅛	...	5.5
393	257¾	Pets at Home	388	+ 6	...	15.8
227⅜	72⅞	Saga	112¾	+ ⅜	...	...
289½	169⅞	**Sainsbury's**	282¾	– ½	...	23.7
1714	1132½	WH Smith	1665	+ 21	...	...
27¼	14¼	Sosandar♦	25	+ ½	...	...
1⅝	1¼	Stanley Gbbns♦	1½	...	...	-1.6
...	...	Studio Retail#	115	– 2½	...	2.4
145¾	69½	Ted Baker	109¾	...	...	...
286⅝	199⅛	**Tesco**‡	268⅜	– ⅞	...	13.6
54	38	Topps Tiles	49⅜	– ⅞	...	8.9

Technology

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
108	62½	Access Intell♦	78	...	...	...
142½	21½	Aferian plc♦	21½	– 2	...	3.8
186	126	Alfa Financial	145	+ ½	...	22.6
20¼	8¼	Allied Minds	13¾	+ 3⅛	...	-1.2
430	321	Aptitude Software	342	– 3	...	38.4
265	126½	Bango♦	185	– 2½	...	...
45⅝	21	BATM Adv Coms	25½	+ ⅛	...	10.7
26½	14¼	Berkeley Res	20⅝	+ ⅝	...	-8.8
21½	6½	Blackbird♦	6½	...	...	...
1¼	¾	CloudCoCo Group♦	1	...	...	-2.5
2624	1810	Computacenter	2454	+ 18	...	15.2
90½	65½	Concurrent Tech♦	67½	– 1	...	16.0
13¼	5¾	Corero♦	6½	...	...	...
2250	1080	Craneware♦	1500	– 40	...	68.4
3¼	1¾	Crimson Tide♦	3	...	...	20.3
24	11¼	CyanConn Hldgs♦	16¼	– ½	...	...
276½	190	D4t4 Solutions♦	195	...	...	23.1
⅛	...	DeepMatter Gp♦	...	...	...	-0.1
22½	13	Dillistone Group♦	19½	...	...	-5.6
¾	⅛	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-2.4
976	599	FDM Group	659	+ 10	...	22.8
16¾	9	Filtronic♦	11½	...	...	31.3
2450	1230	First Derivts♦	1802	+ 16	...	...
647	281½	GB Group♦	305	+ 3	...	23.2
180½	136	GreshamTech‡	151½	+ 4	...	...
91	24¼	Ilika♦	44½	– 3½	...	...
132½	79½	Ingenta♦	109½	– 1	...	64.0
77	38	Intercede♦	53	– 4	...	18.2
200	112	Iomart♦	161⅛	– 5½	...	17.7
59⅞	20¾	IQE♦	20¾	– 2¾	...	...
152½	112½	K3 Business Tch♦	112½	...	...	-1.9
1900½	1038⅛	LG Electronics	1611⅞	+ 145	...	4.2
¼	⅛	Location Sciences♦	⅛	...	...	-2.7
532	256¼	Micro Focus Intl	532	+ ½	...	-5.6
70½	45	MTI Wireless♦	50½	...	...	16.8
55¾	17¼	Nanoco Gp	18	+ ⅛	...	...
108½	62½	Netcall♦	99½	...	...	...
52½	35	Northamber♦	37½	...	...	...
25¾	10¼	Online Blockchain♦	12½	...	...	-6.5
112½	76½	Oxford Metrics♦	92	...	...	40.0
9	4½	Parity♦	4½	...	...	-6.5
41½	28½	Pennant Intl♦	40	– ½	...	...
626½	390¾	Playtech	626½	– 8	...	6.5
394⅛	322	QinetiQ	379⅜	+ 7⅛	...	29.6
150	20½	RM	87	+ 1⅛	...	17.4
855⅜	595½	**Sage**	855⅜	+ 12½	...	32.8
8¼	5¼	Seeing Machines♦	5⅞	...	...	...
139	50	Shearwater Grp♦	62½	...	...	38.7
72½	31½	Smartspace S'ware♦	45½	...	...	-4.7
1441	1071	Softcat‡	1330	+ 15	...	26.0
286⅛	168	Spirent Comms	183⅛	+ 1⅜	...	17.0
54	24¾	SRT Marine♦	54	+ 8	...	...
629⅜	412½	Tele. Ericsson	412½	– 1⅜	...	7.5
102½	72½	Touchstar♦	97½	...	...	...
1047½	860	Tracsis♦	976	– 14	...	...
20½	12¼	Trakm8♦	16	...	...	...
160	81	Triad Grp	160	...	...	17.5
1380	227	Wandisco♦#	1310	...	...	...
916	415	Water Intel♦	445	+ 2½	...	24.4
236	144½	Xaar	178½	– ½	...	...
8¼	⅛	Yourgene♦	⅛	...	...	-0.1
207½	101½	Zoo Digital♦	134	+ ½	...	...

Telecoms

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
200½	100	AdEPT Technology♦‡	200½	...	...	...
170⅞	104½	**Airtel Africa**	115⅜	+ 1⅞	...	10.2
196½	112	**BT Group**	140⅝	– 7⅜	...	13.6
90⅝	53½	Currys plc	56⅛	+ 1⅛	...	2.6
1236	1012	Gamma Comms♦	1162	+ 8	...	21.0
144¼	95¾	Helios Towers	96	+ 4⅛	...	-8.6
2215½	1103½	Just Eat T'away	1488	+ 14	...	-3.2
¼	...	Mobile Streams♦	...	...	...	-1.5
2¼	⅝	Mobile Tornado♦	1¾	...	...	...
2500	1570	Telecom Plus	1732	– 22	...	44.4
131⅜	82⅞	**Vodafone**	82⅞	+ ½	...	...

Transport

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
340	234	Braemar Ship	300	+ 10	...	9.9
535⅛	285	EasyJet	528	+ 7½	...	-3.3
10⅞	4½	Esken Limited	5	– ⅛	...	-0.2
139½	93½	FirstGroup	116¾	– 1	...	27.8
407	251	Fisher (James)	369½	– ½	...	-6.6
173½	93⅝	**International Airlines**	160¼	+ 1	...	-3.5
343¾	183⅛	IDS	208⅞	– 13¼	...	2.3
439¼	310¾	Irish Cont Uts‡	404	...	...	...
1381½	667¾	Jet2♦	1259	– 34	...	-6.7
272½	115¼	Natl Express	117½	– 1	...	-6.9
1050	820	Ocean Wilson‡	854	– 56	...	4.3
105	104	Stagecoach	104⅝	...	...	14.7
24	19½	Sutton Harbour♦	22	...	...	...
416	192⅜	Wincanton	206½	– 7½	...	5.6
3142	1357½	Wizz Air	3113	– 45	...	-7.0

Utilities

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
116¾	67¼	**Centrica**	116¾	– 2⅞	...	11.8
258	189½	ContourGlobal	251	+ ½	...	28.3
812	473⅜	Drax Group‡	618½	+ 5⅛	...	45.8
582½	457	Jersey Electricity	477	...	...	9.0
1245½	858⅜	**National Grid**	1108	– 32½	...	25.8
9¾	5⅝	OPG Power♦	7⅞	...	...	5.1
1099	755	Pennon	824	– 17½	...	59.7
⅝	¼	Rurelec♦	½	...	...	-0.4
3148	2213	**Severn Trent**	2820	– 59	...	...
1920	1428	**SSE**	1837	– 31	...	7.1
1145	828⅛	**United Utilities**	1044½	– 18½	...	95.8

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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National Highways

Lower Thames Crossing – Application for Development Consent (Planning Inspectorate Reference TR010032)

Planning Act 2008

Notice of public consultation on proposed changes to an accepted application for a Development Consent Order

An application for a development consent order ("the Application") was submitted by National Highways to the Secretary of State c/o the Planning Inspectorate on 31 October 2022 and was accepted for examination on 28 November 2022. The reference number applied to the Application is **TR010032)**. An Examining Authority was appointed to conduct the examination of the Application on 2 December 2022.

Notice is hereby given that National Highways Limited of Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ ("the Applicant") is holding a public consultation ("the minor refinement consultation") on a small number of proposed changes to the Application ("the Proposed Changes"), details of which are set out in this notice.

Summary of the Project

The Application is for the proposed Lower Thames Crossing ("the Project"), which is a proposed new road connecting Kent, Thurrock and Essex through a tunnel beneath the River Thames. The Project's main proposals include:

- Approximately 14.5 miles (23km) of new road, with a maximum speed limit of 70mph, connecting to the existing road network from the A2/M2 to the M25;
- Two new tunnels, one southbound and one northbound;
- Improvements to the M25, A2 and A13, where the Lower Thames Crossing connects to the road network;
- New structures and changes to existing ones (including bridges, buildings, tunnel entrances, viaducts, and utilities such as electricity pylons) along the length of the new road; and
- A free-flow charging system, where drivers do not need to stop but pay remotely, similar to that at the Dartford Crossing.

In addition, any necessary rights and powers will be sought to ensure delivery of the Project, including compulsory acquisition of land and interests / rights in land.
The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment development, as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the proposed works constitute development for which an Environmental Impact Assessment is required. An Environmental Statement containing information about the likely significant environmental effects of the Project was submitted as part of the Application.

Copies of the Application

The Application, including the Environmental Statement, together with the application form and its accompanying documents, drawings, plans and maps, is available for inspection free of charge on the section relating to the Application on the Planning Inspectorate's website under the 'Documents' tab: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/lower-thames-crossing/. These documents will be available to view on that website for at least the duration of the Examination. The Examining Authority has published a draft Examination Timetable, which can be found at: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-002083-Rule%206%20letter%20%282-part%20PM%29.pdf

Details of the development consent process and how to participate are set out in the Planning Inspectorate's 'Advice Note Eight: Overview of the nationally significant infrastructure project process for members of the public and others', which is available to view free of charge at https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-eight-overview-of-the-nationally-significant-infrastructure-planning-process-for-members-of-the-public-and-others/.

Summary of the Proposed Changes

The Proposed Changes have arisen as part of our ongoing engagement and discussions with stakeholders and would result in improvements to the Project overall through a reduction in environmental impacts and the amount of land needed to deliver the Project.

The Proposed Changes are minor in nature and do not result in a material change to the Project or the assessment conclusions reported in the Environmental Statement submitted with the DCO application.

The following table outlines the Proposed Changes to the DCO application:

Title	Proposed Change
Reduction of Nitrogen Deposition compensation area and Order Limits at Blue Bell Hill and Burham	Removal of the Burham nitrogen deposition compensation site and a reduction in the size of the Blue Bell Hill site can be achieved while still ensuring the ecological objectives of the nitrogen deposition compensation would be achieved.
Increase in limits of deviation for the northern tunnel entrance headwall	This is a minor change in how we would build part of the northern tunnel entrance. We are proposing an increase to the current limits of deviation in the location of the northern tunnel entrance headwall which would enable the contractor appointed to build the tunnels in a more efficient way and achieve a reduction in the amount of material required for construction. The location within which the cut and cover tunnel structure begins would not change.
Revised utility proposals at East Tilbury	A package of three changes that present an opportunity to reduce the amount of land required for construction and move works further away from residential areas.
	Relocation of the temporary Linford water pipeline and relocation of the Muckingford Road Utility Logistics Hub.
	Relocation of Low Street Lane Utility Logistics Hub to Coal Road east of Low Street Lane.
	A land use change west of Linford where we propose to amend the land use for some of the agricultural land in this area associated with the operation and maintenance of the diverted overhead power lines. The land use will change from temporary possession to temporary possession and the permanent acquisition of rights.

Full descriptions of each of the proposed changes, together with explanations of why they are proposed and an appraisal of the impacts of those changes, are provided in the Minor Refinement Consultation document. The Minor Refinement Consultation document and response form can be viewed on our website: https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/ltc/minor-refinement-consultation-2023/

Responding to this publicity

Any person can respond to the consultation.
An online feedback form will be available from **00.01 on Wednesday 17 May 2023** on our website: https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/ltc/minor-refinement-consultation-2023.

The deadline for responding is 23:59 on Monday 19 June 2023.

Consultation materials on demand

For those unable to access the internet, a printed copy of the consultation document and response form, as well as a pre-paid return envelope, are available to order free of charge (one pack per household), using one of the following methods:

- By emailing National Highways via **info@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk**
- By phoning National Highways on 0300 123 5000

You can also use these contact details if you are having difficulties understanding or accessing the consultation materials, or you have any questions about the consultation.

It is also possible to send a printed response form or letter to the following address: Consultation Response, LTC, Pilgrims Lane, Chafford Hundred, Grays, RM16 6RL.

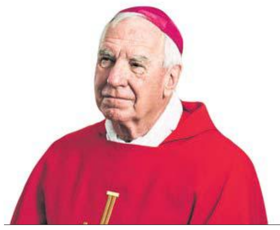
Unless using a pre-paid envelope supplied by National Highways, respondents are required to pay appropriate delivery charges for responses sent to this address.

A response can also be sent to this dedicated email account: **consultationresponses@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk.**

National Highways cannot guarantee that responses sent to any other address will be received.

National Highways' consideration of valid responses will be described in a Change Submission request, which will include a Consultation Report that will be submitted to the Examining Authority and published in due course.

National Highways' policy on managing personal data can be found at **https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/lower-thames-crossing/privacy-notice/.**



Reform-minded Catholic Bishop of Plymouth
The Rt Rev Christopher Budd
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Register

Obituaries

Martin Polden

Solicitor who became the 'go-to' drugs lawyer in the Swinging Sixties with clients including John Lennon and George Harrison



MIRRORPIX



Polden with John Lennon and Yoko Ono after he had admitted cannabis possession in court in 1968; with George Harrison and his wife Pattie Boyd, also clients, a year later; and in 1990

In a chambers at Inner Temple, Martin Polden sat opposite John Mortimer QC, who was surveying an upside-down photograph with bewilderment. "I suppose it's a question of how you look at it," said Mortimer, his head tilted to one side.

It was November 1968 and the black-and-white photo depicted John Lennon and Yoko Ono standing with their arms wrapped around each other, naked. They wanted to use it for the cover of their new album *Two Virgins* but were unsure whether they would be in breach of the laws of decency, so they approached Polden, a renowned civil liberties solicitor who had defended them before. Polden in turn sought the advice of Mortimer, who was well-versed in matters of public morality and would go on to defend Oz magazine and the Sex Pistols in high-profile obscenity trials. In the end it was decided that the album sleeve could be sold over the counter in a brown paper bag "to veil their nether regions".

A month before, Polden had received a curious phone call: "Could I speak to Martin Polden?" said the soft Liverpudlian voice on the line. "This is George Harrison of the famous Beatles." Thinking it was a hoax, Polden put the phone down, but when Harrison called back he asked if Polden could come to their Abbey Road studios, because "you, Martin, are the tops for this".

A client was arrested for his 'grass'. He asked why the lawn was a problem

That day Detective Sergeant Norman "Nobby" Pilcher, the zealous head of the Drugs Squad, had muscled his way into Ono and Lennon's home in Marylebone by posing as a postman and found cannabis resin. Polden worked for Release, a legal advice agency set up by Caroline Coon and Rufus Harris after Mick Jagger and Keith Richards' Redlands drugs bust in 1967, and had built a reputation for being the "go-to" drugs lawyer for the rockocracy.

Pilcher tried to strike a deal with Polden. It was declined. At the crowd-choked Marylebone court the next day — "my clients seemed better equipped for this adulation", he recalled — Polden argued that it was a "highly emotional situation" because they had recently suffered a miscarriage and Lennon had claimed the year before to have renounced drugs after becoming a disciple of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

"He is an artist of note and integrity," Polden declared. "He has brought pleasure to millions. He has stood by his views. He is entitled to some compassion of the court." Lennon pleaded guilty and got off with a £150 fine and a warning that another offence would result in jail time.

Polden, meanwhile, had become close to Lennon — and his wife, Margie, an obstetric physiotherapist, treated Ono after her miscarriage.

He would also represent Harrison and Pattie Boyd when they were charged with possessing 570g of cannabis in 1969 and again in 1971 when Harrison was charged with driving into a policeman. "Because of some loop of destiny, he now found himself the most prized pot lawyer of East Manhattan," wrote Derek Taylor in his 1973 autobiography *As Time Goes By*, "and amazed to be that way and probably, though he never showed it, sometimes a little nervous. Civil liberties lawyers are not liked by the establishment."



Though his hair was neatly trimmed and his suits well tailored, Polden indeed preferred the company of his anti-establishment friends. He had tea with Harrison and Boyd at Kinfauns, their house in Surrey, and when the visit was reciprocated in their Marylebone home Harrison played an unreleased *My Sweet Lord* in their kitchen.

Polden recalled one particularly "crazy" card game of Happy Families with Boyd, Phil Spector, and the future Beatles manager Allen Klein; Lionel Bart (another of Pilcher's victims) eating his wife's chicken soup, and the air being filled with Hare Krishna chants from Harrison's entourage.

He was born Martin Alan Podrdhva in 1928 in Clapton, Hackney, the only child of Ralph, a skilled tailor who changed the family name to Polden when Martin was young and Debbie (née Tree), a typist and legal secretary who had left school at 14.

During the Second World War the family were evacuated to High Wycombe, which offered Martin more opportunity than his life back in the East End. At the Royal Grammar School there he recalled pushing his way through crowds to hear Sir Winston Churchill speak during his 1945 election campaign, though Polden decided to campaign for the Labour Party and in 1947 he wrote a letter to his local MP about "the growing menace of fascism", receiving a personal reply from the home secretary. He also wrote poems, theatre reviews and articles for his school magazine, including one titled *The Voice of Democracy: A Defence of the 'Hyde Park Orators'*.

Motivated to help his parents financially, after a law degree at LSE he trained at a small, Dickensian firm in Shepherd's Bush called WP Davies & Son, populated by lawyers who enjoyed long liquid lunches and snuff for dessert. The firm had advised George Joseph Smith on the insurance on one of his doomed wives during the infamous "brides in the bath" case.

In 1958 he set up his own firm, Polden & Co, which morphed into Polden Bishop & Gale, then Rubinstein Callingham Polden & Gale. The firm's main offices were in Willesden, northwest London, where Polden's widowed mother worked for him under the office nickname "Mrs Nedlop" (an anadrome of Polden).

With his square glasses and pinstripe suit, Polden cut a conservative figure beside the lank-haired hippies who wafted into his office but he was just as open-minded and liberal. He was interested in the human rights issues that trailed the cultural rebellions of the Sixties, particularly in the wake of William Rees-Mogg's "Who Breaks a Butterfly on a Wheel?" leading article for The Times in 1967, in which he argued against the conviction of Mick Jagger on trumped-up drugs charges.

Polden, who considered himself "a respectable professional man", began to represent those prosecuted during the 1968 protests, such as the students who staged a sit-in at the Hornsey College of Art, and youths who were starting their careers with criminal records from minor drugs charges. He learnt on the job. When one client called and said that police had arrived about his "grass", Polden wondered aloud why the front lawn of a man who lived in a flat might be a prosecutable offence. "There began my unintended enmeshment into the drug world," he said.

There were also some close shaves. In the 1970s Polden unwittingly found himself at the back of a pub being asked for legal assistance by a member of the IRA, and he once discovered a revolver in the drawer of a client's hotel room.

Establishing himself as a "generalist" lawyer meant that Polden's clients were drawn from different walks of life. They included the actor Ron Moody, the fashion designer Ossie Clark, the parapsychologist and cannabis rights activist Stephen Abrams and Chris Jagger's girlfriend Suzy Creamcheese (real name, Susan Zeiger), who was arrested during the "free Brian Jones" protest.

In the 1970s he veered into corporate then property development law but in the early 1980s underwent something of a legal volte face — what he called his "conversion on the road to Swindon". He had been approached by clients who wanted to build on an area off the M4, and, after planning permission was granted, the environmentalist Diana Schumacher highlighted to Polden the vast discrepancies between the legal resources available to developers and the local authorities who opposed the decision.

With David Hall, a biology professor at King's College London, Schumacher and Polden founded the Environmental Law Foundation (ELF) in 1992, with Polden as chairman. The ELF was the first to establish a network of pro-bono lawyers, bankers and environmental experts willing to help communities confronted with planning and environmental issues. In 2011 the King, then the Prince of Wales, became the charity's president.

In 1994 Polden co-wrote with Simon Jackson *The Environment and the Law: A Practical Guide* and he was an active member of the Parliamentary Environment Group and UKELA (United Kingdom Environmental Law Association). In 2006 he was appointed OBE for services to environmental law.

In 1956 he married Margaret (Margie) Fry, who he met as an amateur actor at the Ben Uri drama group, where they performed musicals in garish make-up — though, unlike Margie, Polden's best review was for playing the ghost of Banquo in a school production of *Macbeth*. After she died unexpectedly in 1998, at the age of 67, Polden spent more time at their holiday home in Mudeford, Dorset, where he developed a love of sailing and a reputation for being rather bad at it. Still, he enjoyed sleeping out on deck with his dog Simba and his children asleep in the cabin. They survive him: Daniel is a solicitor, Ruth is a somatic movement therapist, Esther, a counsellor and Sarah is a book editor.

Polden was a gifted storyteller and in his rich baritone voice would, in later years, enjoy regaling tales of his days defending the law-skirting beatniks of the Sixties — though some, he recalled, did not always heed his advice. He recalled one of his favourite clients declaring: "I hear what you are saying, Martin, but remember; you are sitting in *my* Rolls-Royce."

Martin Polden OBE, lawyer, was born on June 23, 1928. He died on April 5, 2023, aged 94

Register

The Rt Rev Christopher Budd

Catholic bishop who lived simply, took in the homeless and refused to sweep allegations of child abuse by clergy under the carpet

Christopher Budd was a bishop who practised what he preached. In 1994 he sold the palatial dwelling enjoyed by former Bishops of Plymouth and moved into a modest flat in a large building shared with his clergy. One day an asylum seeker from central Africa knocked on his door and was invited inside. Realising the man was homeless, Budd said he could live with him for as long as was necessary.

The man remained for six years, helping the jovial Budd with household chores and gardening. When his wife joined him, Budd paid for her UK citizenship test.

The bishop would later invite a second asylum seeker to join the household, but for church administrators Budd's charity proved a headache as they grappled with the legal detail of the asylum claims.

Whatever the hurdles, Budd retained a light-hearted air. He would entertain clergy with observations on cricket — or occasionally expatiate over breakfast on 3rd-century heresies. Should the doorbell ring, he would abandon the table to tend to the needs, financial, emotional or spiritual of random callers. Being a bishop was about being "where the mess is", he once explained.

His resolution rendered Budd ideal for the delicate task of chairing the working party charged with devising the first guidelines for dealing with allegations of child abuse by clergy for the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

The intent was to devise preliminary guidelines (now long since modified) to help church authorities collaborate over allegations with statutory agencies. High-ranking representatives from the Department of Health and social services, the NSPCC and the police were part of the working party, which listened to traumatic accounts of abuse from survivors.

Budd did not mince his words in the final report. Abuse, he said, was a "specific, gross, destructive and abusive use of power". The survivors, he crisply observed, had been hurt "not just by the abusers but also by mistaken attitudes within the church community at all levels." (Back then, in the mid-1990s, some Catholics still assumed allegations were simply an attempt to attack the church).

Budd highlighted the "insensitivity and inadequate response" that had "far too often" been the response to survivors' hurt. He exhorted Catholics to realise the "extent of the harm caused by abuse". While his words elicited upset among some, for Budd, the experience proved an eye-opener. It profoundly changed his understanding of paedophilia and he decided to send one of his seminarians for a clinical risk assessment by a specialist. Three years earlier, Joseph Jordan, a former teacher, had informed Budd during his selection interview that he had been taken to court accused of abusing schoolboys. But the charges had been dropped and

MARCIN MAZUR



Budd moved quickly to eradicate the notion that priests were of a superior caste

He informed nuns that serving him coffee was a waste of their vocation

Budd accepted Jordan as a priestly candidate for the Plymouth diocese.

During the working party, Budd learnt as he later explained, "that when a court doesn't convict someone, it doesn't necessarily mean you have no grounds for concern". Jordan meanwhile had met the Catholic Archbishop of Cardiff, the Most Rev John Aloysius Ward in Rome, where he was studying for the priesthood. Lying that his parents were moving to Wales, Jordan asked to switch to the Cardiff archdiocese. Budd wrote Ward a letter detailing his concerns and supplying the archbishop with the name and contact details of the specialist due to assess Jordan. "I was as strong as I could be without being impertinent," Budd later told the BBC. Ward, under no obligation to comply, refused to pursue the assessment. In 1998, Father Jordan was ordained. In October 2000, he was convicted of child abuse and sentenced to eight years in prison. Ward was duly sacked by Pope John Paul II.

Budd described the continuing scandal of clerical abuse as part of the church's "collective history", saying, "we must own it". He urged the church to become "a people of repentance".

Hugh Christopher Budd was born in 1937 in Romford, Essex (now east London), to John, an accountant and his wife Phyllis (née Pearson.) One of six children, he was educated at the Salesian College in Chertsey, Surrey, and in 1956 began studies for the priesthood for the Diocese of Brentwood at the Venerable English College, Rome. A fine baritone who sang in productions of Gilbert & Sullivan and played cricket for the college team, he produced a thesis on the 19th-century Tractarian, Edward Pusey. Ordained in 1962, his first post as theology tutor at the college retained him in Rome during Vatican II. The excitement of that modernising council shaped Budd's future ministry.

Returning to England in 1971, he taught theology at Newman College in Birmingham. Five years later, he became head of training at the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council (now Marriage Care). The psychological insights this gave him proved invaluable when in 1979, he was appointed rector of St John's Seminary, Wonersh in Surrey. In 1985 he was made administrator of Brentwood Cathedral. Within weeks he had been named the 8th Bishop of Plymouth by John Paul II.

After arriving in Plymouth Budd was not immediately identified by the person sent to collect him from the station. The sight of the tall Bishop-designate in a red jumper and anorak, carrying his belongings in a rucksack was a stark contrast to the style of his predecessor. The Right Rev Cyril Restieaux had relished episcopal regalia and employed a chauffeur. Nuns would bring him coffee every morning on a tray. Budd informed them that serving him was a waste of their vocation.

After his episcopal installation in 1986, Budd became one of the first Catholic bishops in England to employ a lay woman rather than a priest for a secretary. During his 28-year tenure in the largely rural diocese of Plymouth (spanning Dorset, Cornwall and Devon), Budd increased numbers of lay Catholics working for the church, including a 300-strong network of catechists. He sought to eradicate notions of priests as a superior caste, holier than lay people. In the small kitchen in the diocesan offices, he would make his staff coffee and share in the washing up.

Yet his re-ordering of the Cathedral of St Mary and St Boniface in Plymouth provoked lay opposition: Budd abandoned plans to install an immersion pool for baptism but moved the lectern off the altar into the aisle to highlight the community breaking open scripture. Some opined that the decision to change the direction of the pews so parishioners faced each other resembled seating around a tennis court, and the arrangement was reversed by Budd's successor.

An admirer of Pope Francis, Budd lived simply. Reports that he owned one jumper and two shirts were exaggerated but his wardrobe was slim. His sole extravagance was works of theology.

The Right Rev Christopher Budd, Bishop of Plymouth, was born on May 27, 1937. He died of cancer on April 1, 2023, aged 85

Professor Claire Lamont

Romantics scholar known for her expertise on the works of Sir Walter Scott and Jane Austen as well as for her playful nature

"We have probably all asked ourselves how we first became acquainted with Scott," Claire Lamont told the audience at the 103rd annual dinner of the Walter Scott Society, of which she was president, in 2011.

In her case, she said, it was a family affair. Her Scottish father had been moved by Scott's poetry as a student at Edinburgh University and her English mother was captivated by his biography. They made regular trips to Abbotsford, Scott's stately home in the wilds of Melrose. "We knew how to avoid the armour and weapons," she recalled wistfully, "to glory in the library and its view of the Tweed, and to stand in blissful contemplation of the Coalport china in the dining room."

As one of Britain's foremost experts on the 19th-century Scottish writer, Lamont would dedicate her career to shedding light on his labyrinthine novels. In 1981 she oversaw a new edition of *Waverley*, published by Oxford University Press, for which she was awarded the British Academy's Rose Mary Crawshay prize. Three years later she was invited to co-edit the Edinburgh edition of the Waverley Novels in 30 volumes — the first scholarly edition of Scott's fiction since 1814. For this task she turned to Scott's original manuscripts and reimposed certain spellings that, she argued, were Scott's way of differentiating between Scottish dialects, and added detailed annotations to explain his rich use of political, historical and literary allusion. In doing so she helped to pioneer a form of literary analysis in which the original manuscript is paramount.

During her time as a young scholar at Somerville College, Oxford, she spent the summers of 1968 and 1969 happily crouched in the attic of Aldourie Castle on the south bank of Loch Ness, riffling through stacks of paper that belonged to the ancestors of the Fraser-Tytler family, with whom she dined every evening. When one day she unearthed the unrecorded manuscript of the 18th-century *Ode on the Popular Superstitions of the Highlands of Scotland* — a whimsical, mythladen ballad by William Collins — it set in motion a feverish interest in original manuscripts and Scottish literature.



She was born in London in 1942, the first child of Margery, whose father Sir Edward Appleton was the principal of Edinburgh University, and William "Bill" Lamont, a Royal Navy chaplain whose family hailed from a Highlands clan. During the war her father was sent away to sea for months with little communication, and Claire spent time living in Cambridge with her mother's family, who taught her to make scones. At the age of 11 she was sent to Esdaile in Edinburgh, a boarding school for daughters of the manse. There she was a keen lacrosse player as well as a bright student who recalled an "emotionally challenging" experience reading one of Scott's novels, *The Bride of Lammermoor*. She was unable to put it down, "and alarmed my kindly grandparents with my floods of tears".

Lamont won a place at Edinburgh University to read for an MA in English Language and Literature, though an operation before her finals meant that she left with a second-class degree, rather than her anticipated first. After a postgraduate secretarial course in Glasgow she worked as a research archivist at Leeds University, then at the bookseller Dawson's in Pall Mall.

After another degree at St Hilda's in Oxford she did a research fellowship at Somerville College and in 1971 secured a lectureship in English literature at the University of Newcastle, where she stayed for 36 years. There she wrote and supervised research on a range of Romantic authors, including Jane Austen — she edited *Sense and Sensibility* for Oxford University Press in 1970 — William Wordsworth, Robert Burns and John Clare. She became head of the department in 1989.

She was also a capable university ad-



Lamont's parents encouraged her deep interest in Sir Walter Scott's work

ministrator with a knack for diplomacy. When the vice-chancellor of Newcastle proposed to close the music and philosophy departments, an unassuming Lamont was chosen to speak among a sea of raised hands; after an impassioned speech the proposal was dropped. In her role as the university's public orator she also wrote amusing speeches for ceremonies in which honorary degrees were being awarded: her subjects included the foreign secretary Lord Carrington, the last governor of Hong Kong Chris Patten and the Australian minister for foreign affairs Alexander Downer.

Though serious-minded when it came to academia, Lamont had a playful side that would emerge during homespun games of "Winnie the Pooh" as a young scholar. Gregarious and bubbly, she was always Tigger, while her friend Martin Holt, a wise mathematician, played Wol, the owl. Whichever erudite friend was left would be the doleful donkey Eeyore. She also teasingly nicknamed her younger brothers Bloggs and Bloglet after the characters in *The Wind and the Willows*.

Lamont received several offers of marriage but turned them down. Instead she enjoyed long-lasting friendship, intellectual debate and travel with her companion, Sandy Murray.

She had a discerning eye for Scottish art and made regular trips to the National Gallery in Edinburgh, as well as enjoying the theatre. Her brother Joe recalled that in the interval of *Present Laughter* by Noël Coward at the Birmingham rep theatre in 2000 she erupted into uncontrollable fits of laughter, which she had repressed through good manners during the first act.

Professor Claire Lamont, Romantics scholar, was born on January 29, 1942. She died of complications from vascular dementia on April 9, 2023, aged 81

Email: obituaries@thetimes.co.uk

Court Circular

Kensington Palace
17th May, 2023
The Prince of Wales, Commodore-in-Chief, Submarines, this morning met submariners who rowed across the Atlantic in HMS OARDACIOUS, at Eton College Rowing Centre, Dorney Lake, Windsor, Berkshire.

Buckingham Palace
18th May, 2023
Her Excellency Mrs Carmen Maria Gallardo Hernández was received in audience by The King today and presented the Letters of Recall of her predecessor and her own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of El Salvador to the Court of St James's.

Mr F Xavier Hernández was also received by His Majesty.

His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia was received in audience by The King and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Apostolic Nuncio from the Holy See to the Court of St James's.

Sir Philip Barton (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs) was present.

His Majesty this afternoon presented the Queen Elizabeth II Design Award for British Design at 180 Studios, 180 Strand, London WC2, and was received by Mr Stuart Shilson (Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London), the President and Chief Executive Officer, British Fashion Council (Mrs Caroline Rush), Mr David Pemsel (Director, British Fashion Council) and the Lord Mayor of the City of Westminster (Councillor Patricia McAllister).

The King met recipients of scholarships and designer support schemes, leading figures in the fashion industry and those championing sustainable fashion, before visiting the studio of the winner.

The Queen, Patron, National Literacy Trust, this morning received Mr Giles Brandreth.

Her Majesty, Patron, National Literacy Trust, this afternoon visited Shirehampton Primary School, St Mary's Walk, Shirehampton, to celebrate the Coronation Libraries Programme and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the County and City of Bristol (Mrs Peaches Golding).

Kensington Palace
18th May, 2023
The Princess of Wales, Patron, this morning visited the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, 4-8 Rodney Street, London N1, to mark Mental Health Awareness Week and was received by Mr. Paul Herbage (Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London).

St James's Palace
18th May, 2023
The Duke of Edinburgh this morning attended the Wessex Heritage Trust Service of Rededication at Longleat Estate and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire (Mrs Peter Troughton).

His Royal Highness, Patron, Northern Ballet, this evening attended a performance of "the Great Gatsby" at Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1.

The Duchess of Edinburgh this morning visited Berkshire College of Agriculture, Hall Place, Burchetts Green, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr James Puxley).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon attended a Meeting with representatives from the Institute for Agriculture and Horticulture at Berkshire College of Agriculture.

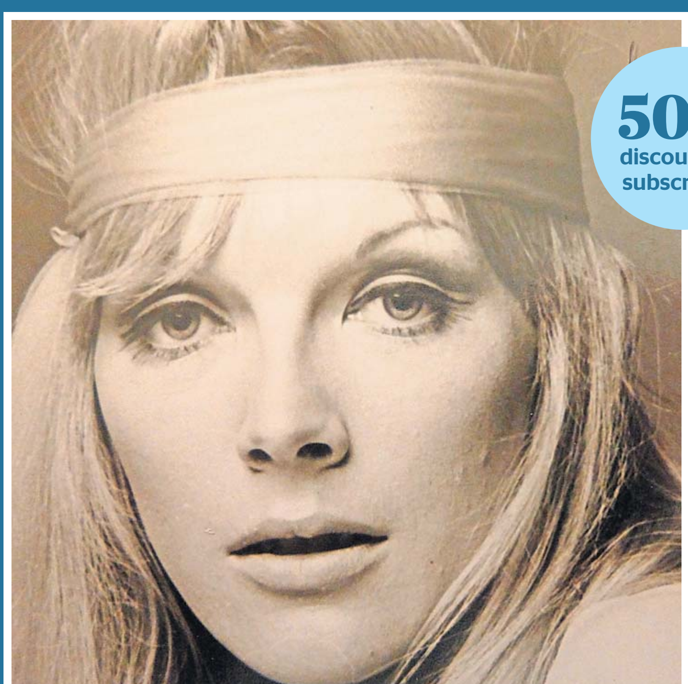
The Duchess of Edinburgh, Patron, England Hockey, afterwards visited Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre, Bisham Village, Marlow Road, Bisham, and was received by Mr Andrew Try (Deputy Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire).

St James's Palace
18th May, 2023
The Princess Royal this afternoon departed Heathrow Airport, London, for Canada and was received upon arrival at Fredericton International Airport, New Brunswick, by the Lieutenant Governor (Her Honour Ms Brenda Murphy).

Mr Charles Davies is in attendance.

St James's Palace
18th May, 2023
The Duke of Kent, Royal Colonel, 1st Battalion The Rifles, this evening took the salute from the War Memorial, Chepstow, at a Parade through the town and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent (Brigadier Robert Aitken).

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THE TIMES

Births, Marriages and Deaths

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"NO one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."
Matthew 6.24 (NRSV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

WEST
on 15th April 2023 to Megan and Oliver, a daughter, Carys Nell Ruth.

WHITAKER on 22nd April 2023 to Sophie (née Crichton) and Harry, a daughter, Esther Julia Xanthe, sister to Hera and Caspar.

Forthcoming Marriages

MR J.G. MAXTED AND MISS A.C. COOK
The engagement is announced between Jack, son of Sez Maxted of East Ilsley, Berkshire, and Adair, daughter of Mark and Cindy Cook of Houston, Texas.

Marriages

MISS G. NARAYANAN AND MR C. PANDYA
The marriage took place on 5th May 2023, at Rosewood, London, between Gayathri and Chirag in the presence of family and friends.

Deaths

BROMLEY MBE FLS Gail passed away on 7th May 2023. Botanist, taxonomist, conservationist, environmentalist, educationalist. Sadly, sadly missed. Service at Woking Crematorium. On Wednesday 31st May at 4pm. No flowers. Donations please to Woking & Sam Beare Hospices.

BROOKE Peter Leonard (Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville) died peacefully on 13th May 2023 surrounded by his family. Funeral for family and good friends at Sutton Mandeville Church, Wiltshire, on Thursday 8th June at 1pm. There will be a memorial service in London in the autumn. Please notify plbfuneral@gmail.com if you intend to come to the funeral. Donations to Mencap preferred to flowers at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lordbrooke

GOING Christopher died peacefully on 9th May 2023, aged 79. Much-loved father to Emily and Richard and beloved grandfather to Archie, Bertie, Isabella and Edward. Remembrance service to be held at St Anne's Church, Wandsworth, SW18 2RS, on Wednesday 12th July 2023 at 12.30pm. In lieu of flowers, donations to Royal Trinity Hospice would be gratefully received.

HALL Jean Edwina Audrey Pamela (née Miller) at Ivybank House Care Home, Bath, on Sunday 7th May, 2023. Jean, 96, beloved wife of Eric (deceased), mother of Robert, sister of Joan (deceased) and aunt to Tony (deceased), Roger and Lindsay, and good friend of Lee. Funeral service to be held at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath, on Wednesday 14th June at 1pm. Inquiries through G Mannings Funeral Directors 01225 833013.

HERROD His Honour, Donald KC died peacefully on 17th May 2023, aged 92. He is survived by his daughter, Philippa and grandchildren Teddy, Emily, Lucy and Freya. At Donald's express wish there will be no funeral.

KINGDOM (FRICS) Michael Henry of Stebbing, Essex, passed away peacefully on 8th May 2023, aged 80. Much-loved husband, father and grandfather.

LUSHER Jean died peacefully on 30th April 2023, aged 89. Funeral service to be held on Wednesday, 24th May at noon in the Hampden Chapel, Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, Buckinghamshire. Family flowers only please. All inquiries to Wright Funeral Services, 01494 863101.

MARKS Kenneth John (Ken) died peacefully on 16th May 2023, aged 77. Born in Pontarddulais on 13th November 1945. Died in Llanelli. Much loved.

MONTAGUE Ruth (née Gorb) died peacefully on 13th May 2023, aged 95. Dearly beloved wife and best of friends of Monty, loving mother of Sophie and Dan, grandma of Abi, Peter, Madeleine, Charlie and Phoebe and great-grandmother of Theo. For details of funeral please email: enquiriesrm1923@gmail.com

PHILLIPS Geoffrey, passed away peacefully on 11th May 2023, aged 92. A funeral service will be held at The Vale Crematorium, Evesham Road, Fladbury, Pershore, WR10 2QR, on Wednesday 7th June at 2pm. No flowers please, but donations, if desired, to Age UK, www.ageuk.org.uk

In Memoriam — Private

NADIA KEMP RIP Having lived a full and quite often eventful life, Nadia Kemp (née Khabbaz), relict of the late Edwin George Kemp (1923-1984) passed away on 8th May 2023 in Beirut, Lebanon. To celebrate her life a religious service, followed by a gathering of friends and relatives, was held on Friday 12th May in the grounds of Saint Maroon Church, before she was laid to rest in the Anglo-American Cemetery.

WOLFSON Lord Wolfson of Marylebone. In loving memory of our father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather who died on 20th May 2010.

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LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

To place notices for these sections please call 020 7481 4000

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 11.30am three days prior to insertion



Legal Notices

JULIETTE LOUISE BERTHA SHOENBERG

LATE OF WORTHING, WEST SUSSEX DIED THERE ON 7 FEBRUARY 2021

The kin of the above named are requested to apply to BVD, PO Box 2119, Croydon CR90 9QU, United Kingdom DX: 325801 Croydon 51 or at www.gov.uk/bonavacantia, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

Government Legal Department

Claim No. CR-2023-000341
In the High Court of Justice
Business and Property Courts of England and Wales
Companies List (ChD)

In the matter of AS LHV Pank (UK Branch)
-and-
In the matter of LHV UK Limited
-and-
In the matter of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, by an application dated 4 May 2023:

(1) the above-named AS LHV Pank (UK Branch), being a UK establishment of a foreign company with UK establishment number BR020302 (the "**Transferor**"); and

(2) the above-named LHV UK Limited (to be renamed LHV Bank Limited), being a private limited company registered in England and Wales with company number 13180211 and firm reference number 993767 (the "**Transferee**" and together with the Transferor, the "**Applicants**"),

applied to the High Court of Justice of England and Wales (the "**High Court**") for, amongst other things, an order under section 111(1) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 ("**FSMA**") sanctioning a banking business transfer scheme (the "**Scheme**") providing for the transfer of deposit-taking and payment services business by the Transferor to the Transferee and for an order making provision under section 112 of FSMA.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said application is expected to be heard before a Judge of the High Court at 7 Rolls Building, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1NL, United Kingdom on 15 August 2023 (the "**Sanction Hearing**").

Copies of the document setting out the full terms of the Scheme (the "**Scheme Document**") and a summary of the principal terms of the Scheme Document are available, free of change, at www.lhv.com/legal-and-regulatory/ or on request from the Transferor or the Transferee at 1 Angel Court, London EC2R 7HJ, United Kingdom. The aforementioned documents will be available up until the date of the Sanction Hearing when the High Court will decide whether to sanction the Scheme. If the Scheme is sanctioned at the Sanction Hearing, the effective date of the Scheme will be 22 August 2023.

FSMA provides that any person (including an employee of the Transferor or the Transferee) who alleges that he / she / it may be adversely affected by the carrying out of the Scheme is entitled to be heard. The aforementioned can be achieved including by:

(1) making representations in writing to be put before the High Court;

(2) appearing at the Sanction Hearing and making representations in person; or

(3) instructing a barrister or solicitor advocate, at such person's own cost, to appear at the Sanction Hearing and make representations on such person's behalf.

It is possible that the Sanction Hearing will be remote and no one will attend in person. The position will be confirmed on the website www.lhv.com/legal-and-regulatory/ prior to the date of the Sanction Hearing and instructions will be provided as to how to attend the Sanction Hearing.

If you intend to appear at the Sanction Hearing in person, or to instruct someone to appear on your behalf, you are requested (though not required) to give notice of your intention to do so in writing, setting out the reasons why you believe you may be adversely affected.

You are requested to send such notice, or if you are not intending to appear in person or by your legal representative, any written representations that you may have, by 5.30 p.m. (London time) on 1 August 2023 to:

WHITE & CASE LLP
5 Old Broad Street
London EC2N 1DW
United Kingdom

(Ref: 7194493-0003)

If you do not give the requested notice, you will still be entitled to attend and make representations at the Sanction Hearing or to instruct someone to appear and make representations on your behalf.

If the Scheme is sanctioned by the High Court, it will result in the transfer of the contracts, property, assets and liabilities of the Transferor within the scope of the Scheme to the Transferee. Notwithstanding that a person would otherwise be entitled to:

(1) terminate, modify, acquire or claim an interest or right; or

(2) treat an interest or right as terminated or modified,

as a result of such transfer, that entitlement will only be enforceable to the extent the order of the High Court makes provision to that effect.

Dated: 19 May 2023

WHITE & CASE LLP
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Tel: +44 20 7532 1000

(Ref: 7194493-0003)

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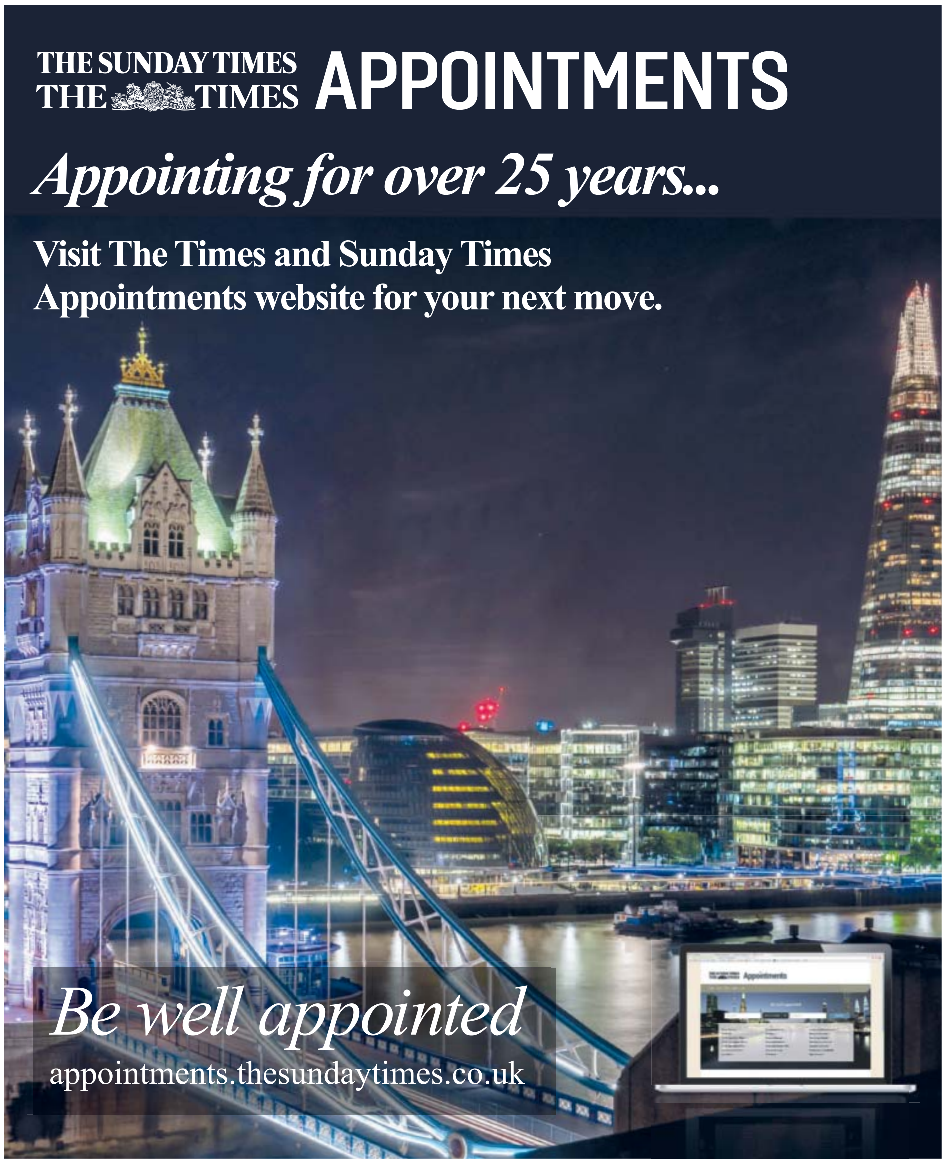
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Recruitment

Department of Health & Social Care

NHS Resolution

Non-Executive Director of NHS Resolution

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care is looking to appoint two Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) to the board of NHS Resolution. One of the NEDs will be responsible for Chairing the NHS Resolution Audit and Risk Committee (ARC).

NHS Resolution operates across the boundaries of the health and justice systems. It has many of the characteristics of a financial institution coupled with a strong focus on improving patient safety. NHS Resolution's primary function is to administer indemnity schemes and resolve clinical negligence claims on behalf of the NHS in England. Its strategic focus is on prevention, early intervention and sharing learning to improve patient care, as well as on reforming how the NHS handles litigation. A key priority is to improve the handling of maternity claims and support the delivery of safer maternity care.

As a NED of NHS Resolution, you will be responsible for the good governance of the organisation, including the expenditure of considerable sums of public money. You will ensure that NHS Resolution promotes the values of the NHS and play a key role in ensuring that NHS Resolution is focused upon providing excellent services and good value for money including cost effective resolution services. As a board member you will provide appropriate challenge, scrutiny and support, ensuring that the organisation learns from things which go wrong in the NHS and shares that learning, to improve the safety and standard of patient care.

Applicants must demonstrate a career track record of achievement, including at a significant senior level in either the private or public sector. Possessing excellent communication skills, sound judgement, and the ability to gain the confidence of senior stakeholders; and ability to work as part of a team and operate effectively on the board of a national public body. In addition, you need the ability to analyse complex and sometimes conflicting data and to draw balanced conclusions from information presented to you.

Applicants should also have experience in either one of the following criteria:

- operational expertise in relation to NHS Resolution's business, with senior experience in financial services, insurance or a related discipline. Whilst a broad background is essential, we would be particularly interested in candidates with experience of claims management.
- senior finance experience, most likely with a professional background in accountancy or a related discipline, with experience of governance, risk management, assurance, and the work of audit and risk committees.

Remuneration will be £7,883 per annum, with the ARC Chair receiving £13,137 per annum for a time commitment of two to three days per month. The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care determines the length of appointment, which may be for up to a maximum of 3 years.

For more information, please visit the Public Appointments website: https://bit.ly/3BsmiTi

If you require an alternative format, please call Daniel Clemence on 0113 2545335 quoting the reference VAC-6184.

The closing date for applications is midday on Tuesday, 06 June 2023. The Department of Health and Social Care values and promotes diversity and encourages applications from all sections of the community.



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JANUARY 2024

Thu 18 **Embark *Balmoral* and depart Southampton**

Mon 22 **Funchal, Madeira** (depart late night)

Wed 24 **Agadir, Morocco**

Thu 25 - Fri 26 **Casablanca, Morocco** (arrive early pm – overnight)

Sat 27 **Tangier, Morocco** (depart early pm)
Overlooking a vast sweeping bay, Tangier is the traditional gateway to Morocco. Though no more than 15 miles across the Straits of Gibraltar from Europe, this is a cosmopolitan city that stands on the threshold of Africa. Its world of soaring minarets and domes, ancient casbah (once the sultan's walled palace and gardens) and animated souks express the rich part-Arab, part-African heritage of a city that has seen occupation by 12 nations since the 5th century


Tangier, Morocco

Sun 28 **Lisbon, Portugal**

Mon 29 **Leixões (for Oporto), Portugal**


Lisbon, Portugal

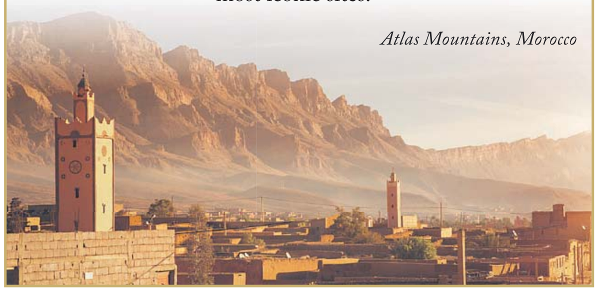
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Thu 1 **Arrive in Southampton**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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Atlas Mountains, Morocco

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Today Sunny spells and variable cloud with a few isolated heavy showers. Max 19C (66F), min 2C (36F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	14	C	1.6	2.5
Aberporth	13	C	0.0	3.5
Anglesey	13	C	0.0	4.7
Aviemore	14	C	0.2	3.3
Barnstaple	15	PC	0.0	**
Bedford	17	D	0.0	**
Belfast	15	PC	0.0	3.4
Birmingham	18	PC	0.0	**
Bournemouth	16	PC	0.0	2.7
Bridlington	13	PC	0.4	**
Bristol	18	PC	0.0	5.7
Camborne	14	C	0.0	2.8
Cardiff	15	S	0.0	1.1
Edinburgh	15	C	0.0	4.2
Eskdalemuir	15	C	0.6	2.6
Glasgow	14	C	0.4	3.3
Hereford	18	S	0.0	**
Herstmonceux	17	PC	0.0	1.5
Ipswich	15	C	0.0	4.1
Isle of Man	14	C	0.0	3.9
Isle of Wight	15	S	0.0	**
Jersey	15	S	0.0	3.7
Keswick	16	R	0.0	**
Kinloss	15	C	0.2	1.7
Leeds	15	C	0.0	**
Lerwick	10	M	7.2	0.7
Leuchars	17	C	0.0	2.8
Lincoln	18	PC	0.0	1.9
Liverpool	15	PC	0.0	**
London	18	C	0.0	2.4
Lyneham	17	PC	0.0	4.3
Manchester	17	C	0.0	5.0
Margate	13	S	0.0	7.8
Milford Haven	16	C	0.0	**
Newcastle	15	C	0.0	**
Nottingham	19	PC	0.0	1.7
Orkney	13	C	12.6	2.6
Oxford	17	PC	0.0	**
Plymouth	18	S	0.0	**
Portland	14	PC	0.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	15	S	0.0	**
Shoreham	17	PC	0.0	3.4
Shrewsbury	18	C	0.0	3.5
Snowdonia	15	PC	0.0	**
Southend	13	S	0.0	2.8
South Uist	12	C	2.6	**
Stornoway	11	C	2.0	0.0
Tiree	11	D	1.6	0.1
Whitehaven	14	C	0.0	3.1
Wick	13	C	2.8	**
Yeovilton	18	PC	0.0	2.6

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	21	PC	Madeira	22	PC
Amsterdam	12	PC	Madrid	18	PC
Athens	22	PC	Malaga	19	SH
Auckland	16	PC	Mallorca	21	PC
Bahrain	37	S	Malta	23	S
Bangkok	36	PC	Melbourne	12	B
Barbados	30	PC	Mexico City	25	B
Barcelona	19	PC	Miami	30	B
Beijing	27	S	Milan	17	B
Beirut	23	B	Mombasa	31	PC
Belgrade	13	B	Montreal	6	C
Berlin	14	B	Moscow	24	S
Bermuda	25	B	Mumbai	33	S
Bordeaux	19	S	Munich	13	B
Brussels	13	S	Nairobi	23	B
Bucharest	21	S	Naples	20	PC
Budapest	14	R	New Orleans	26	T
Buenos Aires	24	S	New York	18	PC
Cairo	25	S	Nice	20	B
Calcutta	30	S	Nicosia	26	PC
Canberra	12	B	Oslo	14	S
Cape Town	17	PC	Paris	14	PC
Chicago	16	PC	Perth	26	S
Copenhagen	12	S	Prague	12	PC
Corfu	21	PC	Reykjavik	11	B
Delhi	33	S	Riga	16	S
Dubai	39	S	Rio de Janeiro	23	B
Dublin	15	B	Riyadh	38	B
Faro	20	PC	Rome	19	B
Florence	22	PC	San Francisco	17	PC
Frankfurt	16	S	Santiago	16	B
Geneva	15	PC	São Paulo	19	PC
Gibraltar	16	T	Seoul	22	B
Helsinki	12	B	Seychelles	31	PC
Hong Kong	31	PC	Singapore	31	B
Honolulu	28	PC	St Petersburg	13	B
Istanbul	15	SH	Stockholm	12	S
Jerusalem	24	B	Sydney	15	B
Johannesburg	16	PC	Tel Aviv	24	B
Kuala Lumpur	32	SH	Tenerife	23	B
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	27	S
Lanzarote	25	PC	Vancouver	19	S
Las Palmas	25	PC	Venice	19	S
Lima	22	DU	Vienna	11	DU
Lisbon	24	S	Warsaw	13	PC
Los Angeles	17	B	Washington	22	PC
Luxor	35	S	Zurich	14	B

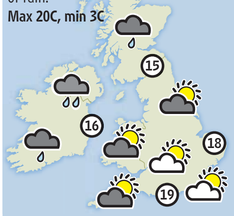
Five days ahead

Often dry with sunny spells, the chance of some rain or showers in the north

Tomorrow

Much of England and Wales will be dry with bright or sunny spells, but cloudier in Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland with outbreaks of rain.

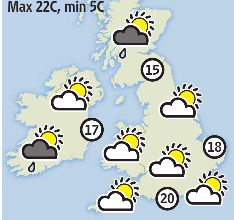
Max 20C, min 3C



Sunday

A few isolated showers in Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland, otherwise most places will be dry and warm with sunny spells.

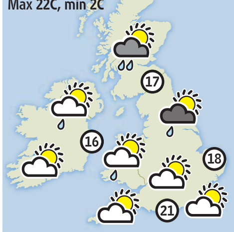
Max 22C, min 5C



Monday

Mainly dry with sunny spells in the south and east but the risk of some rain or showers further north.

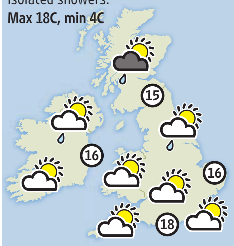
Max 22C, min 2C



Tuesday

Most areas will be dry with sunny spells, just the chance of a few isolated showers.

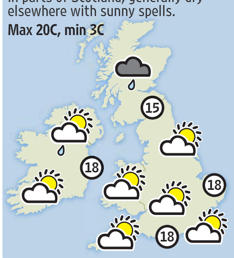
Max 18C, min 4C



Wednesday

Rather cloudy and breezy with rain in parts of Scotland, generally dry elsewhere with sunny spells.

Max 20C, min 3C



The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest

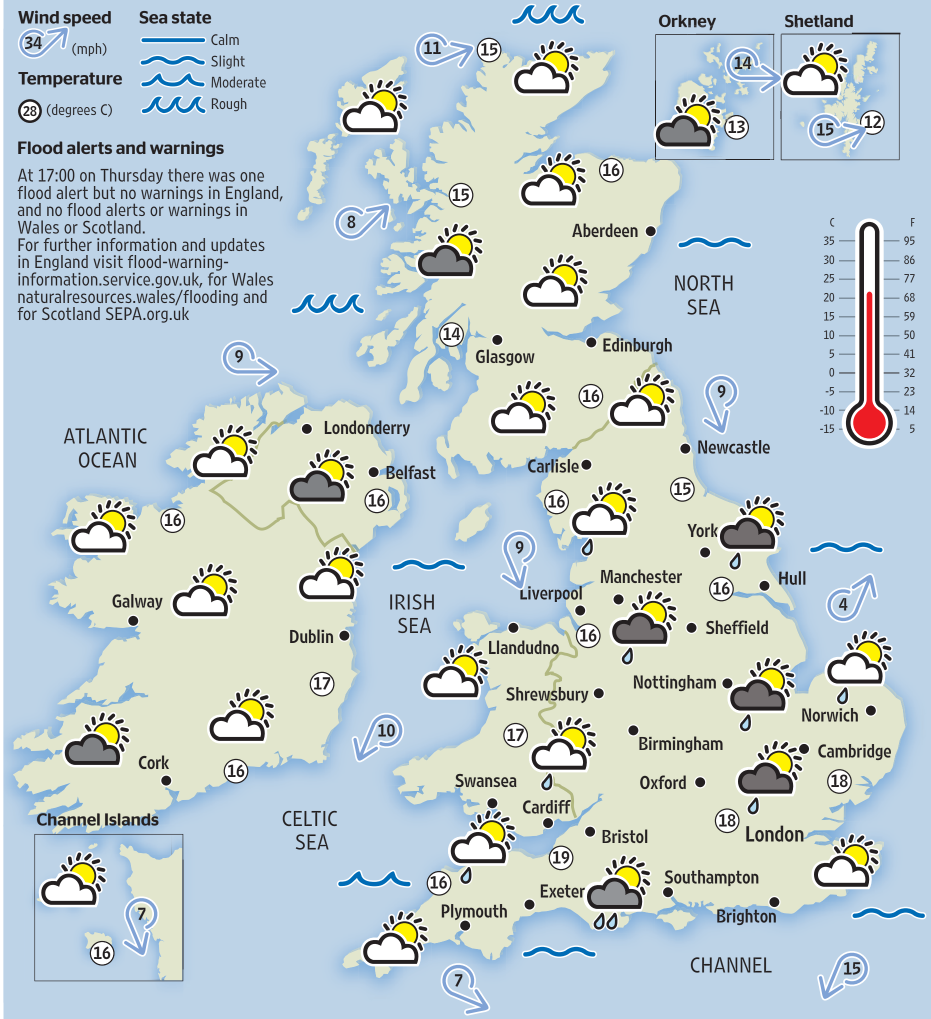
Wind speed 34 (mph)

Sea state Calm, Slight, Moderate, Rough

Temperature 28 (degrees C)

Flood alerts and warnings

At 17:00 on Thursday there was one flood alert but no warnings in England, and no flood alerts or warnings in Wales or Scotland.
For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

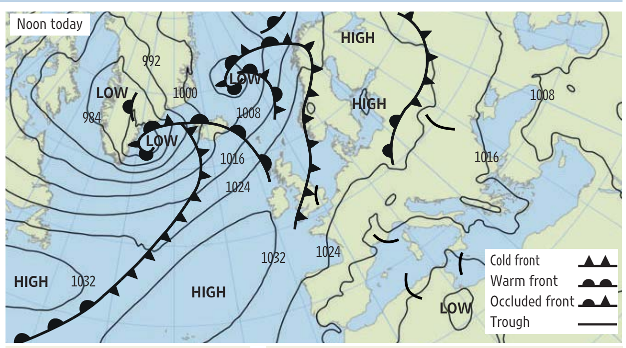


General situation: Largely dry with sunny spells and isolated showers.
E Anglia, London, SE Eng: Patchy rain in places at first, otherwise most areas will be dry with variable cloud and sunny spells, just the chance of a few isolated showers. Light to moderate northeasterly winds. Maximum 19C (66F), minimum 2C (36F).
S Wales, Midlands, Cen S Eng, E Eng, Cen N Eng, E Eng, SW Eng: Bright or sunny spells but areas of cloud will bring a few scattered heavy showers, some perhaps thundery. Winds will be light to moderate in strength but variable in direction. Maximum 19C (66F), minimum 3C (37F).
N Wales, Lake District, Channel Is, IoM, NE Eng: Dry in many places with variable cloud and sunny spells, just the chance of an isolated shower. Light to moderate winds, generally from a northerly direction. Maximum 19C (66F), minimum 4C (39F).
N Ireland, Republic of Ireland: Predominantly dry with variable cloud and bright or sunny spells, perhaps the odd light shower. Some patchy rain may spread into western areas later. Mainly light west to northwesterly winds. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 7C (45F).
Scotland: Dry in many areas with variable amounts of cloud and bright or sunny spells, the chance of a few showers, especially in the north and west. Light to moderate west to southwesterly winds. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 4C (39F).

Tides

Tidal predictions. Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	01:48	4.1	13:59	4.2
Avonmouth	07:47	13.1	20:07	13.1
Belfast	11:47	3.5	--:--	--
Cardiff	07:38	12.1	19:55	12.1
Devonport	06:18	5.4	18:39	5.4
Dover	11:54	6.5	--:--	--
Dublin	00:06	3.8	12:19	4.0
Falmouth	05:44	5.0	18:03	5.0
Greenock	--:--	--	13:10	3.4
Harwich	--:--	--	12:25	4.0
Holyhead	10:52	5.5	23:16	5.4
Hull	06:53	7.2	19:02	7.5
Leith	03:00	5.4	15:15	5.5
Liverpool	11:41	9.2	--:--	--
London Bridge	02:10	7.0	14:37	6.9
Lowestoft	10:09	2.4	22:10	2.5
Milford Haven	06:45	6.8	19:04	6.8
Morecambe	11:52	9.2	--:--	--
Newhaven	11:45	6.5	--:--	--
Newquay	05:37	6.7	17:55	6.7
Oban	06:18	3.9	18:27	3.8
Penzance	05:10	5.4	17:30	5.4
Portsmouth	11:55	4.5	--:--	--
Shoreham	--:--	--	12:00	6.1
Southampton	01:10	4.5	13:44	4.3
Swansea	06:53	9.3	19:10	9.3
Tees	04:11	5.3	16:20	5.4
Weymouth	07:23	2.0	19:43	2.1



Synoptic situation

A weak cold front will drift southeastwards across England and Wales, providing the focus for a few heavy showers by the afternoon and evening across the Midlands and southern England. Many areas will remain dry under the influence of high pressure, although a warm front may push some rain into western portions of Scotland and Ireland later.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Ross-on-Wye, 20.8C
Coldest: Cavendish, Suffolk, 3.1C
Wettest: Harris, 13.6mm
Sunniest: Manston, Kent, 7.8hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 05.02
Sun sets: 20.50
Moon rises: 04.43
Moon sets: 21.08
First quarter: May 27

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	21:58-04:09
Belfast	21:58-04:39
Birmingham	21:32-04:34
Cardiff	21:33-04:44
Exeter	21:31-04:48
Glasgow	21:59-04:26
Liverpool	21:41-04:34
London	21:20-04:31
Manchester	21:38-04:30
Newcastle	21:43-04:20
Norwich	21:20-04:20
Penzance	21:36-04:59
Sheffield	21:34-04:28

Weather Eye
Paul Simons



A fabulous multicoloured sea slug was recently discovered in Falmouth, Cornwall. Vicky Barlow was searching rock pools when she picked up a rock and was astonished to discover a psychedelic-looking sea slug. "Something extremely bright and unusual caught my eye," she said. "I knew exactly what the colourful blob in front of me was! The extremely rare rainbow sea slug! Once delicately placed in a pot to view, the beautiful animal unfurled and revealed itself in full technicolour."

Officially *Babakina anadoni*, it looks like something from another planet — 2cm long with a purple body covered in blue, white, yellow and pink fingers along its back with which it senses its environment.

This species was first reported in UK waters by a diver last year off the Isles of Scilly but the recent discovery was the first recorded on the mainland coast of England, and in a rock pool. Most intriguing of all, the sea slug is more often found in much warmer waters off the coast of Spain, Portugal and the Canary Islands, as well in the Bahamas and Brazil. Another smaller sea slug, *Corambe testudinaria*, was recorded last year off the Cornish coast. This species is also a warm-water creature usually found off the coasts of Spain, Portugal and southern France.

On their own, the sightings of the new sea slugs might simply be curious but other creatures from warm waters are also making their way to the UK in increasing numbers. Squid and anchovies are moving northwards to UK waters along with more exotic species such as the subtropical Atlantic Tripletail found in the Bristol Channel. And new visitors to the Channel Islands include Atlantic bonito, the Atlantic saury and spotted sea bass. On the other hand, cold-water fish are moving out to seek cooler temperatures, including cod, whiting, and herring. These are just some of the warning signs of how global sea temperatures are rising, with record-breaking ocean temperatures last year.

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Sport

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND



Robinson celebrates the wicket of Labuschagne yesterday



Steve Smith's warm-up didn't go to plan, with him inadvertently kicking a football into his face — his batting was better and he finished on 68 not out

Robinson lands blow with scalp of Labuschagne

Sussex v Glamorgan

Hove (first day of four, Sussex won toss): Sussex, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 98 runs ahead

Ivo Tennant

The celebration suggested that the Ashes had already been won. Ollie Robinson, coming down the slope with no little accuracy, dismissed Marnus Labuschagne, the world's No 1 batsman, with the second ball he bowled at him. This was Sussex against Glamorgan in Division Two cricket at Hove rather than England taking on Australia, which will commence next month, but it was a telling and psychological blow nonetheless.

Labuschagne, who came in first wicket down, was off the mark first ball through a scampered single, which meant he was facing Robinson in the following over in conditions ideal for seam bowling.

Sussex had put Glamorgan in and there was sufficient movement and lift to justify the decision. The Australia batsman, who averages 57.52 in Test cricket, took an age to scratch out his guard and was promptly leg-before to one that came back and kept a little low.

There was no restraint to Robinson's glee. He continued his follow through to the Sussex slip cordon which, ironically, included another prominent Australian in Steve Smith, who doubtless will be challenging Labuschagne's standing in the coming weeks.

Indeed, in his third and last match for Sussex he played his most substantial innings, an unbeaten 68. Rest assured it will not be his last of the summer: he was starting to stroke the ball around with some ease in the last few overs, by which time Glamorgan were down to stationing just the one slip.

Nonetheless, this remained Robinson's day after his career-best match figures of 14 for 117 against Worcestershire at New Road earlier this month. The England fast bowler took three further wickets before lunch and he led the players off when Glamorgan were bowled out for 123. Any batsman facing him takes a considerable risk leaving anything alone, given his line is unerringly on or just outside off stump.

Glamorgan were a sorry sight but at least their bowlers knew they would be able to bowl at Smith come the afternoon. Michael Neser had Cheteshwar Pujara leg-before for a duck but that only brought in Smith. Soon he was cover-driving Neser, another compatriot, and James Harris through the ring to the boundary. He reached his half-century off 98 balls with a seventh four and there were two more by the close.

Aintree
Rob Wright

5.20 Father Of Jazz
5.55 The Big Bite
6.30 Lune De La Mer
7.05 Hang In There
7.40 Kinondo Kwetu
8.15 Malaita
8.50 Saunton Surf

Going: good — **Racing TV**

5.20 Novices' Hurdle (£4,357: 2m 103yd) (8)

1 200-1 **FATHER OF JAZZ** 18 (H,D) James Owen 6-11-9 **A Coleman**
2 10- **VE DAY** 23 (D) D McCain 4-11-3 **B Hughes**
3 04PP/ **BREAKING RECORDS** 392 (T) M Barnes 8-11-2 **C Rabbitt (7)**
4 6/0 **BUXTED TOO** 11 I Williams 5-11-2 **C J Todd**
5 U0- **PROPAGATION** 279 D Sayer 5-11-2 **H Brooke**
6 34- **GAIUS** 133 O Murphy 4-10-10 **S Bowen**
7 4-4 **SMART DEAL** 13 (H,T) James Owen 4-10-10 **Dylan Kitts (7)**
8 P/ **ARCTIC FOX** F20 M Todhunter 7-10-9 **Sean Quinlan**

6-4 Father Of Jazz, 3-1 Gaius, 4-1 Ve Day, 8-1 Smart Deal, 10-1 Buxted Too, 14-1 Arctic Fox, 33-1 Propagation, 66-1 Breaking Records.

5.55 Handicap Chase (£7,393: 2m 4f) (9)

1 /P01- **THE BIG BITE** 76 (P,C,D) Henry Oliver 10-12-0 **A Coleman**
2 2146- **LA DOMANIALE** 29 (D) Jonjo O'Neill 7-11-7 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
3 1136- **PRESENTANDCOUNTING** 30 (D) D McCain 9-11-7 **B Hughes**
4 2353- **JEMIMA P** 21 (D) E Lavelle 9-11-7 **B R Jones**
5 2153- **BRIEF TIMES** 77 (T,D) N Mulholland 7-11-6 **H Cobden**
6 062U- **CAPTAIN TOM CAT** 30 (CD) Dr R Newland 8-11-3 **S Twiston-Davies**
7 0115- **GRANDEUR D'AME** 50 A King 7-11-2 **T Cannon**
8 1/46- **SHANG TANG** 25 E Lavelle 9-11-0 **T Bellamy**
9 4452- **BARTON KNOLL** 86 (BF) J Mackie 11-10-9 **Sean Quinlan**

11-4 The Big Bite, 11-2 Captain Tom Cat, 6-1 Grandeur D'ame, 13-2 Presentandcounting, Brief Times, 8-1 La Domaniale, Barton Knoll, 14-1 others.

6.30 Maiden Hurdle (£4,357: 2m 4f) (5)

1 2222- **BASFORD** 88 (P,BF) J Candlish 6-11-4 **Sean Quinlan**
2 10- **ISMAEL** 25 (P,BF) K Frost 5-11-4 **B Hughes**
3 3/31- **LUNE DE LA MER** 32 Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero 6-11-4 **H Brooke**
4 0624- **ST PATRICKS BRIDGE** 24 F O'Brien 6-11-4 **C Brace**
5 **DEADLOCK** F72 A Ralph 4-10-10 **Ciaran Gethings**

13-8 Lune De La Mer, 15-8 Basford, 4-1 St Patricks Bridge, 10-1 Deadlock, Ismael.

7.05 Handicap Hurdle (£10,892: 2m 4f) (8)

1 1P14- **HANG IN THERE** 27 E Lavelle 9-12-0 **J A Anderson (5)**
2 /P50- **SOARING GLORY** 27 Jonjo O'Neill 8-12-0 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
3 431P- **IMPULSIVE ONE** 63 (T,D) N Henderson 5-11-8 **D Jacob**
4 533P- **MACKENBERG** 36 D McCain 8-11-4 **B Hughes**
5 2620- **BOOMBAWN** 30 D Skelton 6-11-3 **Bridget Andrews**
6 1054- **JACAMAR** 39 (V,CD) M Harris 8-11-3 **H Cobden**
7 P03P- **DALLAS DES PICTONS** 34 (D) D Sayer 10-11-0 **H Brooke**
8 0653- **INCA PRINCE** 21 Ruth Jefferson 5-10-6 **J Hamilton**

9-4 Hang In There, 4-1 Boombawn, 5-1 Impulsive One, 6-1 Soaring Glory, 7-1 Mackenberg, 8-1 Jacamar, 10-1 Inca Prince, 33-1 Dallas Des Pictons.

7.40 Handicap Chase (£13,615: 3m 1f) (11)

1 1133- **KINONDO KWETU** 34 (T,CD) S England 7-12-0 **J England**
2 631P- **ORGANDI** 209 (D) R Phillips 11-11-12 **T Bellamy**
3 1155- **HIDDEN HEROICS** 30 (P,D) D Skelton 6-11-11 **Bridget Andrews**
4 215P- **RUTHLESS ARTICLE** 27 (T,C) R Curtis 10-11-11 **S Bowen**
5 2636- **JAVA POINT** 30 (T) T R George 8-11-8 **G Sheehan**
6 6311- **LOUNGE LIZARD** 22 (B,D) H Daly 6-11-6 **H Cobden**
7 36/4- **EMPIRE DE MAULDE** 371 (W,P,T,CD) J Ewart 9-11-6 **B Hughes**
8 313P- **TOPOFTHECOTSWOLDS** 144 (P) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-5 **S Twiston-Davies**
9 FP13- **SAINT ARVANS** 21 (T) M Barnes 9-11-4 **Thomas Dowson**
10 62P4- **TIM PAT** 41 (P,T) D McCain 7-11-0 **T Gillard**
11 2FP1- **GO ON CHEZ** 189 (T,CD) Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero 7-10-13 **H Brooke**

100-30 Kinondo Kwetu, 5-1 Lounge Lizard, 11-2 Go On Chez, 7-1 Hidden Heroics, 10-1 Tim Pat, Java Point, Empire De Maulde, 12-1 Organdi, Ruthless Article.

8.15 Handicap Hurdle (£4,629: 2m 4f) (6)

1 /F14- **ILE DE JERSEY** 142 N Henderson 5-12-1 **N De Boinville**
2 1414- **LUTINEBELLA** 29 F O'Brien 7-12-0 **J Hogan (5)**
3 5335- **TRAPISTA** 59 (D) Jonjo O'Neill 6-11-13 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
4 6411- **MALAITA** 29 (D) M Rowley 7-11-5 **A Edwards**
5 0653- **LATINO FLING** 56 (D) D McCain 8-11-3 **B Hughes**
6 1463- **MOLLIANA** F28 (P,T,D) N Mulholland 8-11-0 **H Cobden**

9-4 Malaita, 7-2 Lutinebella, 5-1 Ile De Jersey, 11-2 Latino Fling, 6-1 Trapista, Molliana.

8.50 NH Flat Race (£4,423: 2m 1f) (14)

1 3P- **ACHTUNG BABY** 39 P Rowley 5-11-12 **Mr T McCain-Mitchell**
2 11- **CADELL** 20 L Russell 5-11-12 **Mr N Orpwood (3)**
3 /331- **DOUGLAS LONGBOTTOM** 39 H Ryall 5-11-12 **Mr J Newman**
4 42P3- **FLY AWHILE JOHNNY** 20 J Teal 5-11-12 **Miss L Teal (7)**
5 2-5 **GRANDPA'S FOLLY** 19 Mrs Kay Horsfall 5-11-12 **Mr J Jeavons (7)**
6 42- **IT'S UNBELIEVABLE** 33 I Brown 5-11-12 **Miss P Brown (7)**
7 0P-3P **SUPREME JOHNSON** 6 (T) M Osborne 6-11-12 **Mr Myles Osborne (7)**
8 322- **WOTTINGER** 27 (BF) John Dawson 5-11-12 **Mr John Dawson**
9 511P- **PENNILESS** 34 N W Padfield 5-11-5 **Mr J Andrews**
10 31- **ROSEBURG** 61 M Comley 5-11-5 **Mr T Broughton (5)**
11 3- **DELILAH BUCKS** 41 (BF) P Rowley 4-10-13 **Mr Murray Dodd**
12 1- **HAZELS DELIGHT** 69 Francesca Poste 4-10-13 **Miss A Stevens (3)**
13 1- **SAUNTON SURF** 54 B Gibbs 4-10-13 **Mr F Mitchell**
14 21- **TAKE IT UPSTAIRS** 33 W Easterby 4-10-13 **Mr W Easterby**

9-4 Cadell, 5-1 Take It Upstairs, Saunton Surf, 13-2 Hazels Delight, 10-1 Wottinger, 12-1 Roseburg, Delilah Bucks, 14-1 Douglas Longbottom.

Hamilton Park
Rob Wright

5.40 Lieutenant Rascal
6.15 Spanish Angel
6.50 Blue Antares
7.25 Beattie Is Back
7.55 Wandering Rocks
8.26 Basholo
9.00 Willing To Please

Going: good — **Racing TV**
Draw: no advantage

5.40 Maiden Stakes (2-Y-O: £5,400: 5f) (7)

1 (2) **MUQTAHEM** G Boughey 9-7 **P J McDonald**
2 (6) **RICH GLORY** E Bethell 9-7 **C Rodriguez**
3 (5) 63 **CLASSY CLARETS** 16 R Fahey 9-5 **D Nolan**
4 (1) **JUNGLE MATE** K Ryan 9-5 **S Gray**
5 (7) 5 **LIEUTENANT RASCAL** 13 G Scott 9-5 **D Keenan**
6 (3) 4 **MIDNIGHT LIR** 20 M Dods 9-5 **P Dennis**
7 (4) 3 **DEFYING ORDERS** 17 A Watson 9-2 **P Mulrennan**

11-4 Muqtahem, 3-1 Defying Orders, 9-2 Classy Clarets, 7-1 Midnight Lir, Lieutenant Rascal, 8-1 Jungle Mate, 10-1 Rich Glory.

6.15 Handicap (£3,664: 5f) (8)

1 (2) 43252 **MEWS HOUSE** 4 (D) R Menzies 6-9-9 **P Mathers**
2 (6) 0011- **ACONCAGUA MOUNTAIN** 158 (V,D) I Jardine 5-9-9 **A Mullen**
3 (8) 30-00 **GLOBAL HUMOR** 15 (B,CD) J Goldie 8-9-7 **P Mulrennan**
4 (3) 01532 **SPANISH ANGEL** 8 (D) R Carr 6-9-4 **JP Sullivan**
5 (1) -0036 **RED ALLURE** 3 (B,CD) L Williamson 8-9-2 **C Rodriguez**
6 (4) 0-006 **BURTONLODGE BEAUTY** 12 (P,CD) Miss L Perratt 4-8-9 **J Fanning**
7 (5) 34060 **STROXX** 45 (B) Liam Bailey 6-8-9 **C Hardie**
8 (7) 00-65 **SHARRABANG** 12 (D) Mrs Stella Barclay 7-8-9 **Amie Waugh (5)**

2-1 Spanish Angel, 5-2 Mews House, 7-2 Aconcagua Mountain, 10-1 Red Allure, 14-1 Global Humor, Stroxx, 16-1 Sharrabang, 20-1 Burtonlodge Beauty.

6.50 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,664: 1m 1f) (9)

1 (3) 5400- **LUNACY** 214 I Jardine 9-11 **A Mullen**
2 (2) -4143 **CARIAD** 34 (D) G Scott 9-7 **D Keenan**
3 (1) 4-32 **KEEPONBELIEVING** 17 Liam Bailey 9-6 **B Garritty**
4 (4) 30-50 **MICKEY MONGOOSE** 22 Charlie Johnston 9-6 **Neeraj Rawal**
5 (8) 64-32 **ARKENSTAAR** 12 M Dods 9-5 **C Rodriguez**
6 (6) 06-65 **EPONA PAS** 12 (H) J Goldie 9-2 **P Mulrennan**
7 (7) 00-6 **BLUE ANTARES** 16 Charlie Johnston 9-1 **J Fanning**
8 (5) 065 **KILLING EVE** 105 K Scott 8-12 **P J McDonald**
9 (9) 0-055 **FUTURE TIMES** 22 (P) J O'Keeffe 8-9 **JP Sullivan**

11-4 Arkenstaar, 3-1 Cariad, 11-2 Keeponbelieving, 6-1 Blue Antares, 10-1 Epona Pas, 12-1 Lunacy, Future Times, 14-1 Mickey Mongoose, 16-1 Killing Eve.

7.25 Handicap (£5,627: 6f) (6)

1 (2) 612-5 **BEATTIE IS BACK** 22 R Fahey 4-9-9 **J Garritty**
2 (6) 31303 **MUSCIKA** 7 (V,D) D O'Meara 9-9-8 **D Nolan**
3 (5) 160-0 **VINCE LOMBARDI** 47 (D) G Tuer 4-9-3 **P J McDonald**
4 (1) 2-363 **BURJ MALINKA** 12 (BF,C) Adrian Nicholls 5-8-12 **C Murtagh**
5 (3) 5-645 **RORY** 3 (P,C) J Goldie 5-8-11 **C Hardie**
6 (4) 0-634 **IRIS DANCER** 12 (B,CD) T Davidson 5-8-8 **A Mullen**

3-1 Beattie Is Back, 100-30 Burj Malinka, 7-2 Muscika, 5-1 Iris Dancer, 11-2 Rory, 8-1 Vince Lombardi.

7.55 Handicap (£15,462: 1m 4f) (9)

1 (3) 40000 **WICKYWICKYWHEELS** 12 (CD) J Goldie 5-9-11 **C Hardie**
2 (1) 30-50 **ONESMOOTHOPERATOR** 41 B Ellison 5-9-6 **H Russell (3)**
3 (7) 330-0 **WANDERING ROCKS** 39 (T) J Fanshawe 4-9-2 **R Scott**
4 (6) 02-03 **GOOD SHOW** 12 (CD) K Dalgleish 4-9-2 **P J McDonald**
5 (5) 113-6 **CUMULONIMBUS** 25 (P,BF) C Fellowes 4-9-0 **C Rodriguez**
6 (2) 20-23 **FAYLAQ** 5 (BF,D) J Goldie 7-8-13 **P Mulrennan**
7 (9) 631-6 **LA PULGA** 27 (B) Charlie Johnston 4-8-10 **J Fanning**
8 (4) 62-00 **HEIGHTS OF ABRAHAM** 5 K Dalgleish 5-8-7 **S Gray**
9 (8) 3-412 **TWO BROTHERS** 7 (V,D) M & D Easterby 5-8-5 **JP Sullivan**

100-30 Two Brothers, 4-1 Good Show, 9-2 Faylaq, 6-1 Cumulonimbus, 7-1 Wandering Rocks, 10-1 La Pulga, 12-1 others.

8.26 Handicap (£3,664: 6f) (12)

1 (7) -2106 **ELLADORA** 8 (B,CD) K Scott 5-9-11 **P Dennis**
2 (5) 46002 **MACHO PRIDE** 14 (D) R Carr 5-9-10 **JP Sullivan**
3 (6) 034-0 **BONITO CAVALO** 39 J Goldie 4-9-7 **P Mulrennan**
4 (11) 25563 **SAM'S CALL** 14 (V) M & D Easterby 6-9-7 **S Gray**
5 (10) 40100 **AIKIDO** 24 (D) Ewan Whillans 5-9-6 **R Scott**
6 (12) 155-5 **THE GAY BLADE** 14 (CD) I Jardine 4-9-6 **J Fanning**
7 (1) 640-2 **BANNER ROAD** 14 J Goldie 4-9-5 **C Hardie**
8 (9) -6063 **BASHOLO** 11 Mrs Stella Barclay 4-9-4 **Z Wheatley (5)**
9 (3) 450-5 **EARN YOUR STRIPES** 15 (P,C,D) R M Smith 5-9-3 **P Mathers**
10 (4) 54-00 **HENERY HAWK** 15 Miss L Perratt 4-9-2 **C Rodriguez**
11 (8) 65234 **JKR COBBLER** 63 (BF,D) I Jardine 4-9-1 **A Mullen**
12 (2) 53006 **STRONSAY** 39 (P,CD) Liam Bailey 7-9-0 **B Garritty**

9-2 Macho Pride, 5-1 Sam's Call, 6-1 Basholo, Jkr Cobbler, 13-2 Banner Road, 10-1 Bonito Cavalo, Elladora, The Gay Blade.

9.00 Handicap (£3,664: 1m) (10)

1 (9) -0064 **HAVANA PARTY** 12 (P,CD) I Jardine 5-9-10 **Ryan Sexton**
2 (2) 12036 **ST ANDREW'S CASTLE** 4 (P) J Goldie 4-9-5 **P Mulrennan**
3 (7) 4-645 **DARK COMPANY** 15 (D) Charlie Johnston 5-9-4 **Archie Young (7)**
4 (8) 035-5 **RETIREMENT BECKONS** 12 (CD) Miss L Perratt 8-9-4 **JP Sullivan**
5 (5) 45-55 **CHINESE SPIRIT** 4 (CD) Miss L Perratt 9-9-2 **J Fanning**
6 (1) 23414 **HOW BIZARRE** 4 (D) Liam Bailey 8-9-2 **C Rodriguez**
7 (4) 210-6 **JAMINOZ** 12 J Goldie 4-9-1 **C Hardie**
8 (6) 30053 **WILLING TO PLEASE** 16 (BF,D) P Kirby 6-8-12 **P J McDonald**
9 (3) 40001 **PERFECT SOLDIER** 4 (P,D) W Storey 9-8-12(4ex) **Laura Coughlan (5)**
10 (10) 03562 **OUR DICKIE** 4 (P,T,BF) I Jardine 4-8-9 **A Mullen**

9-2 Our Dickie, 5-1 Perfect Soldier, 11-2 Willing To Please, 13-2 How Bizarre, 8-1 Dark Company, Chinese Spirit, St Andrew's Castle, Havana Party.

LV= County Championship scoreboards

Division One

Hampshire v Northamptonshire

Ageas Bowl (first day of four; Hampshire won toss): Hampshire have scored 331 for six wickets against Northamptonshire

Hampshire First Innings

J J Weatherley b Buckingham	20
F S Middleton b Sales	40
N R T Gubbins lbw b White	13
*J M Vince c Vasconcelos b Keogh	95
†B C Brown b Sales	44
L A Dawson not out	56
I G Holland lbw b White	4
K H D Barker not out	16
Extras (b 10, lb 14, w 5, nb 14)	43
Total (6 wkts, 96 overs)	**331**

M S Crane, J A Turner and M Abbas to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-51, 2-86, 3-88, 4-194, 5-269, 6-281.
Bowling White 20-6-65-2; Buckingham 21-2-82-1; Taylor 19-6-37-0; Sales 12-3-32-2; Keogh 10-3-28-1; Russell 14-0-63-0.
Northamptonshire M H Azad, E N Gay, *S M Whiteman, R I Keogh, †R S Vasconcelos, S A Zaib, J J G Sales, T A I Taylor, J S D Buckingham, C J White, A K Russell.
Umpires P J Hartley and J D Middlebrook.

Middlesex v Somerset

Lord's (first day of four; Middlesex won toss): Somerset have scored 325 for six wickets against Middlesex

Somerset First Innings

T A Lammonby c Eskinazi b Murtagh	8
†S M Davies c Eskinazi b Roland-Jones	0
*T B Abell c Eskinazi b Higgins	77
G A Bartlett c Roland-Jones b Higgins	121
T Kohler-Cadmore b Murtagh	68
J E K Rew c Simpson b Bamber	25
L Gregory not out	17
C Overton not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 4, nb 4)	9
Total (6 wkts, 96 overs)	**325**

M J Henry, P M Siddle and M J Leach to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-6, 2-10, 3-193, 4-231, 5-293, 6-322.
Bowling Murtagh 22-5-74-2; Roland-Jones 21-7-56-1; Higgins 19-2-64-2; Bamber 21-4-74-1; Hollman 11-2-42-0; Robson 2-0-10-0.
Middlesex M D Stoneman, S D Robson, S S Eskinazi, M D E Holden, R G White, †J A Simpson, R F Higgins, L B K Hollman, *T S Roland-Jones, E R Bamber, T J Murtagh.
Umpires I D Blackwell and P R Pollard.

Nottinghamshire v Essex

Trent Bridge (first day of four; Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 285 runs behind Essex

Essex First Innings

N L J Browne lbw b Broad	11
A N Cook c Harrison b Paterson	72
*T Westley b Paterson	66
D W Lawrence c Clarke b Hutton	16
M J J Critchley c Clarke b Hutton	12
†A M Rossington lbw b Hutton	35
S R Harmer lbw b Broad	46
D A J Bracewell b Hutton	7
S Snater c Montgomery b Broad	1
S J Cook not out	5
J A Porter c Montgomery b Paterson	3
Extras (b 14, lb 4, nb 6)	24
Total (90.2 overs)	**298**

Fall of wickets 1-16, 2-151, 3-170, 4-188, 5-195, 6-270, 7-288, 8-289, 9-291.
Bowling Broad 20-4-53-3; Hutton 24-5-69-4; Paterson 17.2-4-48-3; James 12-1-51-0; Mullaney 6-0-20-0; Patterson-White 8-1-31-0; Harrison 3-0-8-0.

Nottinghamshire First Innings

B T Slater not out	4
H Hameed not out	9
Total (no wkt, 3 overs)	**13**

M Montgomery, †J M Clarke, L W James, *S J Mullaney, L Patterson-White, C G Harrison, B A Hutton, S C J Broad and D Paterson to bat.
Bowling Cook 2-0-8-0; Porter 1-0-5-0.
Umpires T Lungley and S J O'Shaughnessy.

Surrey v Kent

Kia Oval (first day of four; Surrey won toss): Surrey, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 190 runs behind Kent

Kent First Innings

B G Compton b Worrall	4
Z Crawley c Jacks b Clark	19
T Muyeye c Foakes b Atkinson	22
J A Leaning c Jacks b Clark	28
*S W Billings c Foakes b Lawes	0
†J M Cox b Clark	18
J D M Evison not out	77
G Stewart lbw b Worrall	9
W A Agar b Lawes	31
A Bhuiyan c Sibley b Worrall	2
M G Hogan c Foakes b Lawes	43
Extras (b 12, lb 7, nb 6)	25
Total (72.3 overs)	**278**

Fall of wickets 1-12, 2-30, 3-71, 4-80, 5-98, 6-105, 7-118, 8-192, 9-196.
Bowling Worrall 20-4-68-3; Clark 18-2-61-3; Abbott 10-1-53-0; Lawes 9.3-2-41-3; Atkinson 14-1-28-1; Jacks 1-0-8-0.

Surrey First Innings

*R J Burns lbw b Hogan	14
D P Sibley not out	35
O J D Pope not out	20
Extras (b 8, lb 5, nb 6)	19
Total (1 wkt, 21 overs)	**88**

J L Smith, †B T Foakes, W G Jacks, J Clark, S A Abbott, T E Lawes, A A P Atkinson and D J Worrall to bat.
Fall of wicket 1-25.
Bowling Agar 7-0-30-0; Hogan 5-0-13-1; Bhuiyan 5-1-20-0; Stewart 4-1-12-0.
Umpires N J Llong and R J Bailey.

Division Two

Gloucestershire v Durham

Bristol (first day of four; Durham won toss): Durham have scored 393 for nine wickets against Gloucestershire

Durham First Innings

A Z Lees c Khan b Shaw	41
M A Jones b Singh-Dale	13
*S G Borthwick c Hammond b Singh-Dale	53
D G Bedingham c Akhter b M D Taylor	40
†O G Robinson c Bracey b Khan	38
G Clark lbw b Khan	100
B de Leede st Bracey b Khan	65
B A Raine lbw b Khan	2
P Coughlin not out	24
M J Potts c Hammond b Akhter	0
A Y Patel not out	5
Extras (lb 7, w 1, nb 4)	12
Total (9 wkts, 96 overs)	**393**

Fall of wickets 1-15, 2-86, 3-149, 4-149, 5-214, 6-338, 7-350, 8-369, 9-374.
Bowling Singh-Dale 19-1-73-2; Taylor 19-3-71-1; Shaw 12-3-35-1; Akhter 15-0-82-1; Khan 28-4-104-4; Charlesworth 2-0-15-0; Taylor 1-0-6-0.
Gloucestershire C D J Dent, M S Harris, B G Charlesworth, M A H Hammond, J M R Taylor, *†J R Bracey, Z G Khan, M D Taylor, Z Akhter, A Singh-Dale, J Shaw.
Umpires S Shanmugam and M Newell.

Sussex v Glamorgan

Hove (first day of four; Sussex won toss): Sussex, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 98 runs ahead of Glamorgan

Glamorgan First Innings

Z Ul-Hassan c Carter b Haines	22
E J Byrom c Carter b Karvelas	5
M Labuschagne lbw b Robinson	1
S A Northeast c Coles b Hudson-Prentice	5
*K S Carlson b Robinson	8
W T Root b Haines	18
†C B Cooke c Smith b Karvelas	20
M G Neser lbw b Robinson	2
T van der Gugten c Coles b Robinson	5
J A R Harris not out	28
J P McIlroy c Smith b Karvelas	3
Extras (nb 6)	6
Total (37.4 overs)	**123**

Fall of wickets 1-24, 2-25, 3-31, 4-41, 5-63, 6-65, 7-69, 8-79, 9-113.
Bowling Robinson 12-4-29-4; Karvelas 10.4-2-30-3; Hudson-Prentice 7-0-37-1; Haines 8-2-27-2.

Sussex First Innings

A G H Orr b McIlroy	40
T J Haines c Neser b McIlroy	58
T P Alsop lbw b Neser	3
*C A Pujara lbw b Neser	0
S P D Smith not out	68
J M Coles not out	50
Extras (nb 2)	2
Total (4 wkts, 56 overs)	**221**

†O J Carter, F J Hudson-Prentice, J J Carson, A Karvelas and O E Robinson to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-76, 2-81, 3-83, 4-131.
Bowling Neser 12-2-51-2; Van der Gugten 12-1-59-0; McIlroy 14-3-47-2; Harris 8-1-28-0; Ul-Hassan 8-1-26-0; Labuschagne 2-0-10-0.
Umpires R A White and M J Saggers.

Worcestershire v Leicestershire

Worcester (first day of four; Worcestershire won toss): Leicestershire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 156 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Leicestershire First Innings

R K Patel c Roderick b Finch	22
S G Budinger c Pollock b Leach	30
*L J Hill lbw b Waite	14
C N Ackermann b Gibbon	52
†P S P Handscomb lbw b Waite	0
P W A Mulder c D'Oliveira b Leach	0
R Ahmed c Pollock b Waite	7
T A R Scriven c Waite b Finch	12
C J C Wright lbw b Leach	30
J H Davey not out	0
W S Davis lbw b Gibbon	0
Extras (b 1, lb 1, nb 4)	6
Total (55.5 overs)	**173**

Fall of wickets 1-37, 2-56, 3-80, 4-80, 5-83, 6-94, 7-117, 8-171, 9-173.
Bowling Leach 14-3-45-3; Gibbon 6.5-0-34-2; Brooks 13-4-34-0; Finch 13-2-41-2; Waite 9-5-17-3.

Second Innings

R K Patel c Roderick b Leach	29
S G Budinger c Gibbon b Brooks	29
W S Davis not out	0
J H Davey not out	2
Extras (b 4, nb 2)	6
Total (2 wkts, 11 overs)	**66**

Fall of wickets 1-64, 2-64.
Bowling Leach 6-1-18-1; Gibbon 2-0-17-0; Brooks 3-0-27-1.

Worcestershire First Innings

A Ali c Handscomb b Wright	0
E J Pollock c Ackermann b Wright	30
†G H Roderick lbw b Davey	0
J A Haynes c Mulder b Wright	6
A J Hose c Mulder b Wright	0
*B L D'Oliveira c Handscomb b Davey	6
M J Waite c Scriven b Davey	0
J Leach c Scriven b Mulder	4
A W Finch lbw b Wright	1
J A Brooks c Wright b Mulder	18
B J Gibbon not out	5
Extras (b 4, lb 1, nb 8)	13
Total (21.1 overs)	**83**

Fall of wickets 1-0, 2-1, 3-34, 4-34, 5-45, 6-45, 7-45, 8-48, 9-50.
Bowling Wright 10-3-32-5; Davey 7-1-26-3; Mulder 3.1-0-11-2; Scriven 1-0-9-0.
Umpires N Pratt and J Shantry.

Indian Premier League

Hyderabad Sunrisers Hyderabad 186-5 (20 overs: H Klaasen 104); Royal Challengers Bangalore 187-2 (19.2 overs: V Kohli 100, F du Plessis 71). ***Royal Challengers Bangalore (2pts) won by eight wickets***.

The Foxes gives Leicester some joy at last

Brough Scott

The pieces of the Derby jigsaw are now on the board after The Foxes' admirable but narrow victory in the Dante. The next two weeks can be spent in guessing how they are going to fit and this year looks more difficult than ever.

The Dante is the last of the big Derby trials and has given us eleven winners who went on to Epsom triumph, including Desert Crown last year, but this time its unfolding only confused the issue. The Foxes, who runs in the silks of Leicester City football club chairman Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha, was given the sweetest ride along the inside by Oisin Murphy, but only scrambled home by a neck from White Birch, who had forfeited nearly ten times that distance when fluffing the start.

What's more, the favourite, Passenger, who dead-heated for third with Aidan O'Brien's Continuous a length and a quarter back, had endured a run up the straight which jockey Richard Kingscote would only wish on his deadliest enemy. Wherever he put Passenger the wall of horses closed on him and by the time he finally got room, The Foxes was away.

This was just one piece of evidence for young horses of little experience. The Foxes had only run five times before yesterday, White Birch three, Passenger just once, and his team will have to stump up a £100,000 late entry fee if he is to even start at Epsom. So connections, let alone punters, are entitled to be confused and The Foxes' trainer, Andrew Balding, admitted to being more "relieved than impressed". Mind you, at over £100,000 to the winner, that relief came with its compensations.



The Foxes will tackle the Derby after his Dante win

What yesterday did do was to remove some hopefuls from the scene. Frankie Dettori's ride Epictetus was a struggling fifth, the unbeaten Canberra Legend ninth, and the Godolphin horse Flying Honours last of 11. The Derby is only a fortnight tomorrow and a race run in a near-course record of 2mins 5.84sec may have left its mark.

Latest odds for the Derby

7-2	Military Order
4-1	Auguste Rodin
5-1	Arrest
8-1	Passenger
10-1	**The Foxes**
12-1	Sprewell
14-1	White Birch, Dubai Mile

Epsom Downs, June 3

So where else to go? Godolphin's Military Order is favourite but he didn't beat the twice-raced Waipiro that far at Lingfield. Auguste Rodin is still second in the list despite a deplorable run in the 2,000 Guineas, which many will find hard to forgive. Arrest is big and impressive but his six-length win at Chester was against bogged-down rivals.

Jessie Harrington's Sprewell was convincing at Leopardstown but also on soft ground, which is unlikely at Epsom. Classic form is usually preferable to trials' excitements, which leads us back to the 2,000 Guineas, in which Royal Scotsman was third and Dubai Mile fifth. Royal Scotsman pulled very hard at Newmarket and may not stay, which leaves Dubai Mile, who should appreciate the distance and who beat Arrest last October and is 14-1 as I write. Yet the fun, and indeed the brutal truth, is that this is a Derby where your guess is as good as mine.

A fortnight to go and then, in the spaces of Kipling's unforgiving minute, those Derby pieces will spin out around Tattenham Corner and the shape of the puzzle will be revealed. Remember that it all makes sense afterwards.

York

Rob Wright

1.50 Persian Dreamer (nb)
2.25 Silver Lady
3.00 Aramaic
3.35 Quickthorn
4.10 Kathab (nap)
4.45 Riot
5.15 Dream For Gold

Going: good, good to firm in places — **Racing TV**
Draw: no advantage

1.50 Clipper EBF Marygate Fillies' Stakes (Listed) (2-Y-O: £39,697: 5f) (10 runners) ITV4

1	(9)	31 **BEENHAM** 14 (D) B Millman 9-0	W Buick	77
2	(6)	3 **BELLARCHI** 13 G Tuer 9-0	O Stammers	60
3	(10)	4 **CALLIANASSA** 10 B Ellison 9-0	B Robinson	--
4	(5)	2 **DOROTHY LAWRENCE** 30 (BF) K R Burke 9-0	R L Moore	72
5	(3)	2 **GAIDEN** 25 (BF) R Hannon 9-0	S M Levey	61
6	(1)	1 **GOT TO LOVE A GREY** 27 (D) K R Burke 9-0	S James	73
7	(8)	0 **MISS WOO WOO** 14 R Cowell 9-0	L Morris	54
8	(7)	1 **PERSIAN DREAMER** 30 (D) D F Davis 9-0	K Stott	♦83
9	(2)	4 **TIERNEY** 9 H Palmer 9-0	O Murphy	63
10	(4)	41 **TREASURE STORM** 17 (D) D F Davis 9-0	David Egan	68

11-8 Persian Dreamer, 100-30 Got To Love A Grey, 6-1 Dorothy Lawrence, 10-1 Beenham, Gaiden, 12-1 Treasure Storm, 20-1 Tierney, 25-1 Callianassa, Bellarchi, 33-1 Miss Woo Woo.

Rob Wright's choice: Persian Dreamer won well at Newmarket; he can book his Royal Ascot ticket **Dangers:** Got To Love A Grey, Dorothy Lawrence

2.25 Oaks Farm Stables Fillies' Stakes (Listed) (Registered As The Michael Seely Memorial Fillies' Stakes) (3-Y-O: £39,697: 1m) (10) ITV4

1	(2)	2115- **JULIET SIERRA** 237 R Beckett 9-7	R Hornby	♦98
2	(5)	21- **CLOCHETTE** 301 A Balding 9-2	O Murphy	--
3	(7)	1 **FAKHAMA** 28 W Haggas 9-2	J Crowley	84
4	(10)	160-4 **GLENLAUREL** 22 K Ryan 9-2	T Eaves	95
5	(4)	1- **ORCHID BLOOM** 202 W Haggas 9-2	T Marquand	71
6	(9)	1 **QUEEN FOR YOU** 16 (D) J & T Gosden 9-2	R Havlin	89
7	(1)	1 **SILVER LADY** 30 (D) C Appleby 9-2	W Buick	97
8	(8)	41- **SOUNDS OF HEAVEN** 216 (D) J Harrington (Ire) 9-2	R Whelan	95
9	(6)	2-1 **STORMY SEA** 20 (D) Sir M Stoute 9-2	R L Moore	86
10	(3)	2-1 **URBAN DECAY** 43 (D) M Bell 9-2	Doubtful	77

2-1 Silver Lady, 5-2 Queen For You, 15-2 Stormy Sea, 8-1 Juliet Sierra, 10-1 Sounds Of Heaven, 12-1 Fakhama, Orchid Bloom, 14-1 Clochette.

Wright choice: Silver Lady is beautifully bred and looked a really good prospect on her debut at Newmarket **Dangers:** Stormy Sea, Fakhama.

3.00 Knights Solicitors Handicap (£18,039: 1m 2f) (13) ITV4

1	(11)	5042-6 **MASEKELA** 31 A Balding 4-9-11	R Hornby	♦101
2	(2)	02412- **SPIRIT DANCER** 272 (CD) R Fahey 6-9-6	Oisin Orr	92
3	(9)	22055- **STAY WELL** 223 (H,D) H Morrison 5-9-5	R L Moore	94
4	(3)	3620-4 **MOKTASAAB** 13 (D) W Knight 5-9-4	C Shepherd	99
5	(6)	4-6005 **MARIE'S DIAMOND** 25 R Fell 7-9-4	J Peate (5)	72
6	(1)	5-2321 **DIDEROT** 42 (H,D) J Ferguson 5-9-1	R Coakley	88
7	(7)	52114/ **ARAMAIC** 608 (BF,CD) W Haggas 5-9-1	T Marquand	--
8	(10)	261-40 **MAJESTIC** 13 Jack Channon 5-9-1	R Whelan	93
9	(4)	/4210- **MARHABA THE CHAMP** 219 (W,BF) K Ryan 4-8-13	W Buick	90
10	(5)	1/10- **NOBEL** 202 (W,T,D) A Balding 4-8-13	O Murphy	90
11	(12)	5340-1 **LIGHTENING COMPANY** 25 (D) B Haslam 5-8-11	G Lee	88
12	(13)	41060- **YORKSHIRE LADY** 148 (D) M & D Easterby 5-8-11	Joanna Mason	90
13	(8)	0450-1 **EEETEE** 20 (CD) D O'Meara 5-8-5	A Atzeni	82

7-2 Nobel, 11-2 Eeetee, Spirit Dancer, 13-2 Aramaic, 8-1 Stay Well, 10-1 Masekela, Lightening Company, 12-1 Moktasaab.

Wright choice: Aramaic looked a good prospect two seasons ago; he can start to make up for lost time **Dangers:** Montasaab, Nobel

3.35 Boodles Yorkshire Cup Stakes (British Champions Series) (Group 2: £102,078: 1m 6f) (7) ITV4

1	(6)	11410- **ELDAR ELDAROV** 216 (D) R Varian 4-9-8	David Egan	116
2	(1)	060-51 **BROOME** 55 A P O'Brien (Ire) 7-9-6	R L Moore	111
3	(3)	5-0230 **GET SHIRTY** 55 (D) D O'Meara 7-9-3	Jason Watson	102
4	(7)	2132-0 **GIAVELLOTTO** 55 (D) M Botti 4-9-3	A Atzeni	114
5	(4)	1165-6 **QUICKTHORN** 55 (C,D) H Morrison 6-9-3	O Murphy	♦117
6	(2)	133-12 **SISKANY** 55 (P,BF,D) C Appleby 5-9-3	W Buick	112
7	(5)	543-34 **TASHKHAN** 19 (P,BF,D) B Ellison 5-9-3	B Robinson	107

9-4 Quickthorn, 5-2 Broome, 7-2 Eldar Eldarov, 9-2 Siskany, 16-1 Giavellotto, Tashkhan, 33-1 Get Shirty.

Wright choice: Quickthorn won the Lonsdale Cup by 14 lengths at this track last season; he has his ideal conditions here **Dangers:** Eldar Eldarov

4.10 Darley Novice Stakes (£20,616: 1m) (7) ITV4

1	(7)	1-5 **MOSTABSHIR** 29 (D) J & T Gosden 3-9-10	W Buick	♦89
2	(6)	4- **BIG BAD WOLF** 241 N Tinkler 3-9-4	F McManoman	69
3	(2)	**FRANKIE'S WISH** I Furtado 3-9-4	Elle-May Croot	--
4	(5)	2 **KATHAB** 29 W Haggas 3-9-4	J Crowley	88
5	(4)	**MASTER CHARTWELL** (T) E Bethell 3-9-4	C Beasley	--
6	(1)	3 **NEW BUSINESS** 29 (BF) A Balding 3-9-4	O Murphy	80
7	(3)	4 **ZIRYAB** 24 (BF) J & T Gosden 3-9-4	R Havlin	71

7-4 Kathab, 9-4 Mostabshir, 7-2 New Business, 6-1 Ziryab, 20-1 Master Chartwell, Big Bad Wolf, 66-1 Frankie's Wish.

Wright choice: Kathab shaped well when second to Passenger - who was unlucky not to win the Dante yesterday - at Newmarket **Danger:** Mostabshir

4.45 Yorkshire Equine Practice Handicap (£12,885: 7f) (20)

1	(9)	66-031 **IT JUST TAKES TIME** 8 (CD) M Walford 5-10-1(5ex)	J Peate (5)	♦91
2	(4)	0-0551 **TITAN ROCK** 62 (D) J J Quinn 5-9-12	W Buick	83
3	(17)	0100-0 **MUDAMER** 14 G Harker 4-9-12	S James	88
4	(10)	02230- **NO NAY NICKI** 223 R Fahey 4-9-11	Oisin Orr	87
5	(7)	000-35 **GIOIA CIECA** 19 (D) K Dalgleish 5-9-10	G Lee	82
6	(8)	5050-5 **ASCOT ADVENTURE** 47 (D) D O'Meara 5-9-9	Jason Watson	90
7	(1)	206241 **STARSHIBA** 56 (D) D O'Meara 6-9-9	B Robinson	72
8	(5)	3040-1 **RIOT** 15 (D) D O'Meara 6-9-9	O Murphy	85
9	(2)	10050- **QUEST FOR FUN** 213 T Easterby 5-9-9	S B Kirrane (3)	78
10	(3)	/506-1 **TIEMPO STAR** 22 R Beckett 4-9-8	R Hornby	86
11	(16)	/3040- **MOSSBAWN** 237 (D) N Mechie 6-9-8	A Breslin (3)	--
12	(19)	0004-6 **MOTAGALLY** 62 S Dixon 7-9-8	K O'Neill	85
13	(14)	5-0542 **FORTAMOUR** 7 (BF,D) B Haslam 7-9-7	P Hanagan	81
14	(13)	3DD-00 **ARCHDUKE FERDINAND** 13 (P,D) T Waggott 4-9-7	Dale Swift	73
15	(6)	4300-0 **SEVEN BROTHERS** 20 (C,D) S Dixon 5-9-7	T Eaves	85
16	(20)	0040-0 **ATASER** 28 (CD) T Kent 5-9-7	T Marquand	81
17	(18)	0146-5 **GOLDEN APOLLO** 13 (P,T,C,D) T Easterby 9-9-4	D Allan	78
18	(15)	5231-4 **MILBANKE** 23 (D) R Carr 4-9-4	Joanna Mason	69
19	(12)	-10025 **ELIGIBLE** 14 (D) M & D Easterby 7-9-4	C Beasley	77
20	(11)	52-400 **ANOTHER INVESTMENT** 29 (C) N Tinkler 4-9-4	L Edmunds	73

11-2 It Just Takes Time, 6-1 Titan Rock, 13-2 Tiempo Star, 10-1 Riot, Starshiba, No Nay Nicki, Fortamour, Ascot Adventure.

5.15 Irish Champions Festival Handicap (3-Y-O: £12,885: 5f) (22)

1	(11)	1100-5 **CLEARPOINT** 27 (P,D) R Fahey 9-9	Oisin Orr	84
2	(10)	211 **RHYTHM N HOOVES** 36 (D) A Watson 9-7	L Morris	92
3	(3)	3100-0 **REDEMPTION TIME** 27 (T,D) C Cox 9-6	K Stott	68
4	(14)	1353-0 **STAR OF LADY M** 27 (D) D O'Meara 9-5	Jason Watson	89
5	(19)	212-01 **MISS BRAZEN** 18 (D) M & D Easterby 9-4	Joanna Mason	85
6	(18)	443-63 **NORTHCLIFF** 12 T Easterby 9-4	D Allan	♦96
7	(13)	2520-1 **TATTERSTALL** 7 (D) M Dods 9-4(6ex)	C Beasley	82
8	(12)	03-100 **WOOLHAMPTON** 22 B Millman 9-3	R Coakley	90
9	(1)	146-14 **WEN MOON** 17 (P,D) B Haslam 9-2	P Hanagan	83
10	(2)	211-1 **SHE'S CENTIMENTAL** 38 Alice Haynes 9-1	K O'Neill	89
11	(9)	52-1 **SPARTAN ARROW** 17 (T,D) S & E Crisford 9-1	David Egan	82
12	(15)	422-15 **DREAM FOR GOLD** 66 (W,D) K Ryan 9-0	T Eaves	88
13	(21)	2213-0 **GRACE ANGEL** 29 (B,T,D) Darryll Holland 8-13	A Atzeni	81
14	(17)	212-32 **THANKUAPPRECIATE** 27 N Tinkler 8-13	L Edmunds	81
15	(20)	010-13 **THE THAMES BOATMAN** 66 (D) R Hughes 8-13	W Buick	71
16	(7)	0045-5 **KUWAIT CITY** 13 (D) J Butler 8-12	J Crowley	81
17	(8)	020-33 **JM JUNGLE** 19 (D) J J Quinn 8-11	T Marquand	79
18	(6)	221113 **JUST A SPARK** 27 (D) B Millman 8-8	O Murphy	75
19	(5)	636-1 **JAMIE BOND** 37 (D) B Smart 8-8	S James	75
20	(16)	4200-4 **MATCH PLAY** 66 (D) P Midgley 8-7	B McHugh	81
21	(4)	1103 **ROSE KING** 42 (D) S Dixon 8-6	Elisha Whittington (5)	87
22	(22)	00-122 **WINTER CROWN** 9 (D) J Camacho 8-6	G Lee	76

7-1 Rhythm N Hooves, 15-2 Spartan Arrow, 8-1 Winter Crown, 10-1 Tatterstall, She's Centimental, Jamie Bond, 12-1 Thankuappreciate, Northcliff.

Blinkered first time: Newbury 1.30 Flag Of Truth. 2.05 First Officer. 4.20 Billabong.

Newbury

Rob Wright

1.30 Newton Jack
2.05 Tuxedo Junction
2.40 Time Signature
3.15 Shaaden
3.50 Troon
4.20 Tony Montana
4.55 Roar Emotion
5.26 Bunker Bay

Going: good — **Racing TV**
Draw: no advantage

1.30 Handicap (£4,527: 1m) (13)

1	(13)	03-02 **FLAG OF TRUTH** 10 (B) A Watson 4-10-2	Kaiya Fraser
2	(4)	500-0 **TRAIS FLUORS** 17 (P,BF,D) Jack Channon 9-10-2	Rose Dawes
3	(11)	13422 **SANDY PARADISE** 16 (P,D) R Hughes 4-10-2	E Jones (5)
4	(12)	1-040 **TARAVARA** 79 (V,D) S Pearce 5-10-1	Adam Tracey (7)
5	(8)	312-5 **CALONNE** 16 (D) R Brisland 7-10-0	Morgan Cole
6	(7)	46-33 **RIVAL** 18 (P,D) J Flint 5-9-13	Alec Voikhansky
7	(2)	46-00 **PAINLESS POTTER** 74 (P,D) S Lycett 5-9-13	Millie Wonnacott
8	(3)	56-55 **LENNY'S SPIRIT** 15 (T,V,D) E Dunlop 5-9-11	W Pyle (3)
9	(9)	6060- **LE REVEUR** 203 (B,D) M Murphy & M Keady 6-9-11	M Tabti
10	(10)	01230 **MABRE** 37 (B,BF,D) P Evans 6-9-11	Olivia Tubb (5)
11	(6)	0335- **NEWTON JACK** 203 (D) W Kittow 6-9-10	J Leavy (5)
12	(1)	300-0 **GREG THE GREAT** 16 (D) E J-Houghton 4-9-8	Mia Nicholls (5)
13	(5)	/0040 **RUNNER BEAN** 9 E De Giles 4-8-9	A Jary (3)

7-2 Sandy Paradise, 5-1 Flag Of Truth, 6-1 Calonne, 13-2 Rival, 8-1 others.

2.05 Handicap (£18,900: 1m 2f) (20) ITV4

1	(15)	63-54 **SUN KING** 25 (T) G Boughey 4-9-9	D O'Neill
2	(5)	212-1 **WISPER** 17 (D) M Tregoning 5-9-8	D Costello
3	(9)	000-2 **WIND YOUR NECK IN** 18 (D) P Evans 4-9-8	A Kirby
4	(11)	4016- **ANDALEEP** 214 (T,D) D & C Kubler 7-9-7	R Kingscote
5	(3)	0-606 **ARTHUR'S REALM** 14 (P,BF) E Dunlop 5-9-7	N Callan
6	(13)	1-114 **STORM CATCHER** 42 (D) S Pearce 5-9-6	J Mitchell
7	(14)	/50-0 **WILKIE** 13 J Butler 5-9-6	J Fisher (5)
8	(17)	00-21 **TIME INTERVAL** 13 (D) J Flint 5-9-6	W Cox
9	(7)	2600- **THE WHIPMASTER** 214 (W,D) G L Moore 5-9-6	T P Queally
10	(6)	106-3 **TUXEDO JUNCTION** 27 (D) J Fanshawe 4-9-5	D Muscutt
11	(18)	130-1 **FAST STEPS** 18 (D) B Millman 5-9-5	T Whelan
12	(8)	202-1 **MUSTAZEED** 27 (CD) Harry Eustace 5-9-4	H Turner
13	(12)	30540 **FIRST OFFICER** 27 (B,BF,D) J Chapple-Hyam 4-9-4	R Tart
14	(16)	2225- **TRIBAL WISDOM** 236 (H) I Williams 4-9-4	S Osborne
15	(1)	1061- **PREMIERE LIGNE** 215 (D) H Morrison 4-9-3	D Probert
16	(4)	1130- **YOUTHFUL KING** 273 (BF,D) L Dace 4-9-1	M Ghiani
17	(20)	2114- **PLEDGE OF HONOUR** 271 (CD) D Ivory 7-9-0	C Bennett
18	(19)	0060- **SEA APPEAL** 208 R Hughes 5-9-0	Deon Le Roux (7)
19	(2)	50-05 **SWEET REWARD** 13 (C,D) J Portman 6-8-13	H Crouch
20	(10)	35311 **SOLANNA** 10 (D) J Butler 4-8-12(5ex)	C Lee

5-1 Mustazeed, 8-1 Tuxedo Junction, Wind Your Neck In, 10-1 Time Interval, Fast Steps, 12-1 Sun King, Solanna, 14-1 Arthur's Realm, Wisper, Storm Catcher.

Wright choice: Tuxedo Junction was gelded before a good third at Newbury **Dangers:** Time Interval, Pledge Of Honour

2.40 Maiden Stakes (2-Y-O: £6,480: 6f) (10)

1	(3)	**BAHEER** R Hannon 9-7	P Dobbs
2	(10)	**BATTLE CHARGE** R Beckett 9-7	H Crouch
3	(9)	**ETIHAD RAIL** M Tregoning 9-7	D Muscutt
4	(1)	**IRRELEVANT** R Hughes 9-7	F Marsh
5	(2)	**PHONE TAG** H Palmer 9-7	J Mitchell
6	(7)	**QUICKFIRE** E Walker 9-7	S Osborne
7	(6)	**REDNBLUE SOVEREIGN** T Dascombe 9-7	R Kingscote
8	(4)	5 **RUST E BOY** 28 P Evans 9-7	A Kirby
9	(5)	**TIME SIGNATURE** W Knight 9-7	N Callan
10	(8)	0 **ZOULU CHIEF** 15 H Main 9-7	M Ghiani

3-1 Battle Charge, 4-1 Baheer, 5-1 Phone Tag, 6-1 Time Signature, 13-2 others.

3.15 Novice Stakes (Div I: 3-Y-O: £6,480: 7f) (12)

1	(2)	01- **GOOD KARMA** 171 (D) J Ferguson 9-11	D Muscutt
2	(9)	1- **RESOLUTE MAN** 221 (D) R Varian 9-11	J Mitchell
3	(12)	6-0 **CHARLATAN** 21 D M Simcock 9-4	H Turner
4	(7)	**CHELSEA SQUARE** R Beckett 9-4	H Crouch
5	(6)	**DECISIVE CALL** R Teal 9-4	G Rooke
6	(4)	**ENGLISH OAK** E Walker 9-4	S Osborne
7	(1)	00- **FANTASTIC ARTIST** 163 A Stronge 9-4	F Marsh
8	(11)	0- **OLIVER SHOW** 218 (BF) Sir M Stoute 9-4	R Kingscote
9	(10)	0 **TWO PLUS TWO** 16 E De Giles 9-4	T Whelan
10	(5)	60- **BELIEVE YOU ME** 156 (P) H Main 8-13	M Ghiani
11	(3)	44- **FOX ISLAND** 283 R Hannon 8-13	Doubtful
12	(8)	3-6 **SHAADEN** 15 M Tregoning 8-13	D O'Neill

4-5 Resolute Man, 9-2 Good Karma, 7-1 English Oak, 10-1 Shaaden, Oliver Show, 14-1 Chelsea Square, 33-1 Decisive Call, Charlatan, Believe You Me.

3.50 Novice Stakes (Div II: 3-Y-O: £6,480: 7f) (12)

1	(10)	1- **TROON** 212 (D) E J-Houghton 9-11	C Bishop
2	(9)	**CRACK SHOT** E Walker 9-4	R Kingscote
3	(4)	2 **EQUATORIAL** 21 (H) R Varian 9-4	J Mitchell
4	(6)	**FLEET ADMIRAL** A Balding 9-4	D Probert
5	(5)	0 **GOLDEN MOON** 17 W Knight 9-4	N Callan
6	(3)	**STRYDER** E Walker 9-4	S Osborne
7	(7)	40 **TAJDIF** 17 (H) C Hills 9-4	D O'Neill
8	(2)	432-0 **THUNDER BALL** 29 P & O Cole 9-4	M Tabti (7)
9	(12)	0-4 **AUSSI MANDATE** 31 R Hannon 8-13	P Dobbs
10	(11)	**EYESHADOW** H & R Charlton 8-13	B Sayette (3)
11	(8)	2 **KOKOMO** 28 Brian O'Rourke 8-13	D Muscutt
12	(1)	50 **MARISITTA** 15 J G O'Shea 8-13	C Bennett

9-4 Equatorial, 11-4 Kokomo, 5-1 Troon, 7-1 Fleet Admiral, 10-1 others.

4.20 Maiden Stakes (3-Y-O: £6,480: 1m 2f) (15)

1	(1)	**BALTIC** H & R Charlton 9-7	A Kirby
2	(13)	**BILLABONG** (B) H & R Charlton 9-7	T Whelan
3	(15)	**BLOODHOUND** C Hills 9-7	J Mitchell
4	(4)	4- **GORDON GREY** 210 I Williams 9-7	D Costello
5	(14)	**INKAMAN** A King 9-7	D Probert
6	(10)	3 **NAQEEB** 20 (T,BF) W Haggas 9-7	D O'Neill
7	(5)	2-3 **NOTHING TO SEA** 11 (BF) R Beckett 9-7	H Crouch
8	(9)	**REFLEX** (P) C Fellowes 9-7	C Lee
9	(6)	**SEA OF TRANQUILITY** J Fanshawe 9-7	D Muscutt
10	(2)	**SEENDID** W Haggas 9-7	R Kingscote
11	(7)	0- **SMART CHARGER** 170 A Carroll 9-7	T P Queally
12	(11)	0 **STORY HORSE** 17 W Knight 9-7	M Ghiani
13	(12)	**SWIFT HAWK** W Knight 9-7	N Callan
14	(8)	5 **TALISMAN** 27 R Hannon 9-7	Doubtful
15	(3)	2- **TONY MONTANA** 232 (BF) J & T Gosden 9-7	B Sayette (3)

9-4 Tony Montana, 7-2 Naqeeb, 5-1 Nothing To Sea, 10-1 Seendid, Gordon Grey, 14-1 Baltic, Bloodhound, 20-1 Sea Of Tranquility, Billabong, Smart Charger.

4.55 Handicap (3-Y-O: £5,574: 1m 2f) (17)

1	(9)	550-0 **GREYSFUL STORM** 30 Darryll Holland 9-11	M Ghiani
2	(14)	044-1 **ROAR EMOTION** 37 J Portman 9-9	C Bishop
3	(13)	055-5 **MANUELITO** 18 R Hannon 9-9	P Dobbs
4	(4)	00-0 **SALAMANCAN** 27 (H) D Menuisier 9-8	N Callan
5	(17)	260-4 **GOING TO THE MOON** 17 (P) I Mohammed 9-8	C Bennett
6	(16)	446-6 **APEX** 32 (H) G Boughey 9-7	D O'Neill
7	(7)	53-43 **PHENOMENON** 15 R Spencer 9-7	A Kirby
8	(6)	615-4 **DANCE HAVANA** 20 (P,T) Alice Haynes 9-7	Shariq Mohd (7)
9	(15)	64-40 **I STILL HAVE FAITH** 13 B Brookhouse 9-6	D Costello
10	(12)	00-0 **MAJOR MAJOR** 47 R Hannon 9-6	S Hitchcott
11	(3)	6-00 **LADY RASCAL** 30 G Boughey 9-6	D Muscutt
12	(8)	000- **GALLANT LION** 184 A Carroll 9-5	T P Queally
13	(1)	0-65 **ROMAN ART** 119 H Morrison 9-4	D Probert
14	(5)	606- **LUCKY FIFTEEN** 193 R Beckett 9-3	H Crouch
15	(11)	00-62 **CHERRYHAWK** 13 D F Davis 9-2	W Cox
16	(10)	040-4 **IREZUMI** 24 J Boyle 9-1	B Sayette (3)
17	(2)	06-50 **ROYAL ATHENA** 32 T Ward 8-11	H Turner

9-2 Roar Emotion, 7-1 Cherryhawk, 15-2 Phenomenon, 10-1 Lucky Fifteen, Dance Havana, 12-1 Salamancan, Lady Rascal, Going To The Moon, Apex, Major Major.

5.26 Handicap (£4,527: 1m 4f) (20)

1	(6)	14061 **TALAP** 25 (D) D Pipe 6-9-9	T P Queally
2	(13)	232-2 **BUNKER BAY** 17 (BF) W Knight 4-9-9	N Callan
3	(9)	36151 **MASQOOL** 6 H Evans 5-9-9	J Leavy (7)
4	(20)	605-4 **SPYFALL** 39 (T) D Menuisier 4-9-9	B Sayette (3)
5	(19)	-6450 **SWORD BEACH** 42 (P) A King 6-9-8	D Muscutt
6	(12)	02-31 **WARHOL** 25 G Baker 4-9-8	C Bishop
7	(11)	0000- **SPRING GLOW** 170 (BF,D) W Knight 6-9-7	M Ghiani
8	(2)	322-3 **ROSE LIGHT** 31 J Portman 4-9-6	H Crouch
9	(14)	13-36 **FAR HORIZON** 18 M Scudamore 5-9-6	C Hutchinson (3)
10	(15)	040-1 **SAINTE COLETTE** 17 (P,D) H Candy 4-9-5	T Whelan
11	(17)	526-0 **TYPICAL WOMAN** 20 I Williams 4-9-5	R Kingscote
12	(10)	02120 **GIVE A LITTLE BACK** 16 (H) S Curran 4-9-5	D Probert
13	(3)	5003- **AZAMHAN** 176 R G Hawker 5-9-4	D Costello
14	(5)	4011/ **POLAR CLOUD** J71 (P) H Main 7-9-4	J Mitchell
15	(8)	04/00 **DIRHAM EMIRATI** 22 (D) G L Moore 5-9-3	P Dobbs
16	(18)	0-600 **CRAFTER** 48 M Loughnane 5-9-2	C Lee
17	(1)	20/00 **LUSAKA** 13 J Flint 5-9-1	W Cox
18	(4)	20-14 **DEVIZES** 10 (BF,D) P Phelan 7-9-1	R Clutterbuck
19	(16)	0-04 **DASHING PANTHER** 20 W Stone 4-9-0	S Osborne
20	(7)	-3450 **MUJID** 47 (D) J Tickle 8-8-13	T Fisher (5)

6-1 Warhol, 13-2 Bunker Bay, 7-1 Masqool, 8-1 Sainte Colette, 10-1 Talap, 12-1 Rose Light, Give A Little Back, Spyfall, Far Horizon.

Newmarket

Rob Wright

1.40 Regal Envoy
2.15 Syllabus
2.50 Dual Identity
3.25 Adjuvant
4.00 Laoisman
4.35 Shigar
5.05 Oriental Dancer

Going: good to soft, good in places — **Racing TV**
Draw: no advantage

1.40 Handicap (£5,234: 6f) (10)

1	(2)	-5600 **PRINCE OF BEL LIR** 47 (P,D) Joseph Parr 5-9-11	Alice Bond (8)
2	(1)	3-310 **SOCIETY LION** 20 (T,D) E Dunlop 6-9-11	G Eddery
3	(8)	0-066 **DYNAMIC TALENT** 22 (B,T) Darryll Holland 4-9-10	Liam Wright (3)
4	(7)	1450- **REGAL ENVOY** 240 (D) W Knight 4-9-9	Brandon Wilkie
5	(3)	45-20 **WISEACRE** 36 (P) A Watson 5-9-5	Emily Ivory (10)
6	(10)	56140 **AIRSHOW** 15 (H,D) B Millman 8-9-4	O Searle (3)
7	(4)	6-005 **MEDIA GUEST** 24 (D) G Margarson 5-9-2	T Jakes (5)
8	(9)	0-405 **EPIC EXPRESS** 15 (P,D) C Dwyer 5-8-13	Sophie Clements
9	(6)	64112 **SIR RODNEYREDBLOOD** 46 (BF,D) J R Jenkins 6-8-4	Tyrese Cameron (5)
10	(5)	60106 **COMPANY MINX** 9 (CD) J R Jenkins 6-8-4	Jay Mackay (7)

100-30 Society Lion, 7-2 Sir Rodneyredblood, 4-1 Wiseacre, 7-1 others.

2.15 Maiden Stakes (3-Y-O: £5,400: 1m 2f) (13)

1	(4)	05 **COSMIC VIEW** 15 S & E Crisford 9-7	F Norton
2	(8)	02- **DAVIDEO** 184 R Beckett 9-7	B Curtis
3	(2)	**DUBAWI WARRIOR** W Haggas 9-7	A Farragher (3)
4	(7)	2 **HIDDEN STORY** 27 C Appleby 9-7	James Doyle
5	(6)	0- **MANXMAN** 184 S & E Crisford 9-7	H Burns (3)
6	(3)	6 **MYTHICAL GUEST** 24 G Margarson 9-7	J F Egan
7	(5)	**NEW YORK BAY** G Kelleway 9-7	Sorin Moldoveanu (7)
8	(9)	5 **SAVANNA KING** 24 J & T Gosden 9-7	C Fallon
9	(13)	4 **SNIPER'S EYE** 136 (BF) D M Simcock 9-7	J P Spencer
10	(10)	4 **SYLLABUS** 29 W Haggas 9-7	H Doyle
11	(12)	3- **VAGUELY ROYAL** 246 J & T Gosden 9-7	K Shoemark
12	(11)	0-0 **PLUS POINT** 17 Harry Eustace 9-2	G Wood
13	(1)	**PORTRAITIST** D Loughnane 9-2	Laura Pearson (3)

3-1 Hidden Story, 11-2 Syllabus, 6-1 Davideo, 13-2 Vaguely Royal, 7-1 others.

2.50 Handicap (£10,800: 1m 2f) (6)

1	(5)	110-6 **MISTY DANCER** 17 (D) S & E Crisford 4-9-9	K Shoemark
2	(3)	310-4 **HONITON** 13 (D) J & T Gosden 4-9-8	James Doyle
3	(6)	233-0 **DUAL IDENTITY** 13 (D) W Knight 5-9-8	J P Spencer
4	(1)	10-12 **SIMPLY SONDHEIM** 29 (D) G Boughey 4-9-6	B Curtis
5	(4)	602-0 **HOWTH** 13 (H) M Appleby 4-9-6	R Dawson
6	(2)	01232 **QAASID** 42 (V,D) J Camacho 5-9-0	H Doyle

5-2 Dual Identity, 3-1 Misty Dancer, 4-1 Qaasid, Simply Sondheim, 8-1 others.

3.25 Handicap (£12,885: 1m 6f) (9)

1	(2)	1114- **SARATOGA GOLD** 222 (B,D) C Hills 5-9-9	K Shoemark
2	(9)	350-2 **ADJUVANT** 12 M Bell 4-9-9	H Burns (3)
3	(5)	1/40- **SOLO SAXOPHONE** J200 (P,C) A Hales 9-9-7	H Doyle
4	(3)	0/0-4 **PRINCE ALEX** 28 (D) T Dascombe 6-9-6	James Doyle
5	(8)	14340 **ACED IT** 42 (T) C Poulton 7-9-5	B Curtis
6	(7)	32230 **FIRST EMPEROR** 12 (T) J Ryan 4-9-3	A Farragher (3)
7	(6)	203-4 **AUSTRALIAN ANGEL** 20 (D) A Balding 4-8-13	H Davies (3)
8	(4)	03-23 **UDABERRI** 16 (P) S P C Woods 4-8-12	C Fallon
9	(1)	-0035 **PONS AELIUS** 12 Charlie Johnston 4-8-11	F Norton

100-30 Adjuvant, 7-2 Saratoga Gold, 11-2 Australian Angel, 15-2 Udaberri, 8-1 Pons Aelius, First Emperor, 10-1 Solo Saxophone, 12-1 Prince Alex, Aced It.

4.00 Novice Stakes (3-Y-O: £5,400: 1m) (10)

1	(8)	1 **QUDDWAH** 15 S & E Crisford 9-11	J P Spencer
2	(3)	0-0 **AUGUST** 29 J & T Gosden 9-4	K Shoemark
3	(2)	6 **DAARREE** 31 Owen Burrows 9-4	R Dawson
4	(5)	2 **LAOISMAN** 16 S P C Woods 9-4	H Davies (3)
5	(4)	2- **MERLIN THE WIZARD** 156 H & R Charlton 9-4	H Doyle
6	(1)	0-4 **STAR AHOY** 17 W Haggas 9-4	C Fallon
7	(10)	**THEATRE HONOURS** C Appleby 9-4	James Doyle
8	(6)	03 **TRIBUTE** 11 S & E Crisford 9-4	H Burns (3)
9	(9)	5-4 **YELLOW STAR** 27 R Hannon 9-4	L Keniry
10	(7)	**ZARAZA** W Haggas 9-4	A Farragher (3)

7-2 Laoisman, 6-1 Quddwah, Merlin The Wizard, Theatre Honours, 13-2 Yellow Star, 7-1 Star Ahoy, 12-1 Tribute, Zaraza, Daarree, August.

4.35 Handicap (£7,851: 1m) (10)

1	(5)	313-0 **ASHKY** 31 (CD) H & R Charlton 4-9-11	James Doyle
2	(9)	50220 **MILLION THANKS** 42 (T,D) K P De Foy 4-9-9	R Dawson
3	(8)	514-4 **TARBAAN** 118 (T,CD) Miss A Murphy 4-9-5	S Cherchi
4	(2)	0-000 **FANTASY BELIEVER** 16 (D) E Walker 6-9-5	K Shoemark
5	(7)	030-0 **REPERTOIRE** 16 (D) D M Simcock 7-9-4	J P Spencer
6	(4)	412-5 **SHIGAR** 20 W Haggas 4-9-4	A Farragher (3)
7	(10)	541-6 **CANOODLED** 17 (CD) E Walker 5-9-4	H Davies (3)
8	(3)	1020- **ISLAND BANDIT** 200 (B,D) H Main 4-9-1	H Doyle
9	(1)	-0121 **HIROMICHI** 18 (D) Jack Channon 5-8-13	G Bass (3)
10	(6)	-2000 **DUBAI IMMO** 16 S C Williams 4-8-4	F Norton

7-2 Hiromichi, 4-1 Shigar, 11-2 Canoodled, Ashky, 6-1 Million Thanks, 8-1 Repertoire, Tarbaan, 14-1 Island Bandit.

5.05 Handicap (3-Y-O: £5,234: 7f) (16)

1	(9)	5642 **ABBADIA** 30 (P) G Boughey 9-11	B Curtis
2	(12)	43-02 **CARVETII** 20 D Carroll 9-9	H Shaw
3	(5)	531-5 **LIBERTY MOUNTAIN** 17 (D) Joseph Parr 9-9	R Dawson
4	(3)	034 **RAVEN'S APPLAUSE** 15 E Dunlop 9-9	James Doyle
5	(7)	0-302 **WADI BANI** 11 (T,BF) S Durack 9-8	J P Spencer
6	(6)	321-6 **HURRICANE KIKO** 51 J Feilden 9-8	Dylan Hogan
7	(1)	0002- **ORIENTAL DANCER** 227 R Hannon 9-7	L Keniry
8	(16)	5-604 **MUY MUY GUAPO** 51 S Dow 9-7	P Bradley (3)
9	(8)	534- **HOUSE OF DRAGONS** 211 S Durack 9-6	Laura Pearson (3)
10	(2)	6-533 **AURORA DAWN** 31 E Walker 9-6	H Doyle
11	(15)	26150 **MISTER X** 31 (T,D) S C Williams 9-6	L Catton (5)
12	(4)	0420- **MISS GALLAGHER** 227 (BF) W Jarvis 9-6	C Fallon
13	(11)	42104 **SO CHIC** 24 (BF,D) C Hills 9-5	K Shoemark
14	(10)	-4224 **TOPO CHICO** 31 (P) Joseph Parr 9-5	J Haynes
15	(13)	450-1 **CHALK MOUNTAIN** 24 (D) W Kittow 9-3	H Davies (3)
16	(14)	060-5 **MYSTERIOUS MAESTRO** 15 (V) S & E Crisford 9-0	H Burns

9-2 Abbadia, 6-1 Carvetii, 7-1 Wadi Bani, 8-1 Oriental Dancer, 10-1 Chalk Mountain, Topo Chico, Liberty Mountain, 12-1 Aurora Dawn.

Slimmer DeChambeau back to best

Rick Broadbent



Rochester, New York

In the days before LIV Golf, the accepted threat to golf's ecosystem was a one-man disruptor called Bryson DeChambeau. He piled on 45lbs to destroy courses, monitored his own brain waves and merrily talked of living until he was 130. As the US PGA Championship got underway at Oak Hill, one of the Saudi circuit's most divisive figures and a true sports radical reminded us what all the fuss had been about.

There was always method in DeChambeau's madness, and he won the US Open in 2020 with a bomb-and-gouge approach that had been much-mocked — but then his influence dimmed and he largely disappeared, to injuries and LIV and an obsession with long drives.

Typically, his return to prominence at Oak Hill forced others to take notice. DeChambeau's approach to the 17th went so far off line that Kenny Pigman had to duck for cover as he prepared to play his tee shot on the 18th. This was DeChambeau back to his combative pomp.

Now slimmed down after realising his maniacal diet was not going to get him to 130, he finished his round of 66 as the clubhouse leader at four under par. World No 2 Scottie Scheffler and Canadian Corey Conners were one stroke behind, with plenty of players still on the course.

Afterwards, DeChambeau said he had cut his daily calories from 5000 to 2900 and had lost 18lbs in 24 days. There was a touch of the old-time lab rat to all this: "I took a Zoomer peptide test which tells you what inflames your blood and I was allergic to corn, wheat, gluten and dairy, pretty much everything I liked."

But there was also less of the braggadocio that used to grate with many. The biggest surprise of his week? "Hitting the driver straight," he said. "I'm so used to hitting it everywhere. Look, it could happen tomorrow. Golf is a weird animal." There were times he wondered if it was worth it, but he had come to a conclusion. "I'm tired of changing, trying different things. It was a fun experiment."

Other big names struggled as the East Course played as long and tough as anticipated. Jon Rahm and Matt Fitzpatrick slumped to rounds of 76, while Jordan Spieth's heavily strapped wrist showed what a struggle it was as he started another tilt at the career grand slam. Predictably, Jason Day's decision to conserve his physical and mental energy by not playing a practice round did not prove a ground-breaking formula. Brooks Koepka fought for a round of 72 but said it was: "The worst I've hit it in a long time."

From the late starters, Adam Scott was rising fastest and when Justin Rose holed out from a bunker on the 7th he was just two off the lead.

The start was delayed by two hours due to frost, raising questions about the wisdom of playing a major in this part of New York in May. Another criticism was bottlenecks around the course which did not help a glacial pace of play. Ryan Fox, the New Zealander who finished at two under par, said he had got to the 14th tee to find two other groups waiting. It was a test of patience, but Fox was delighted after having had quite the build-up.

At last month's Masters he fell ill and he then withdrew from the RBC Heritage with what was diagnosed as pneumonia. Two weeks ago his wife gave birth to his second daughter, Margot. "A lot of sleepless nights and not a lot of practice," he said. "On one of the days I was supposed to go to practise, Auckland flooded for the third time this year, and I drove 27 kilometres around the city for four hours in chaos. It wasn't the ideal preparation."

As for Rory McIlroy, for much of his opening round he seemed intent on living down to reduced expectations. He missed drives left and right, took a frustrated swing at a tee box and had the bounce of a punctured Space Hopper. Then he made a 35-foot putt up a steep slope behind the 2nd green, his 11th, to stop the downward spiral. He made three birdies after that. "I'm just struggling with my swing," he conceded after salvaging a round of 71. "It's pretty messy out there." He added that he was "fighting something" but that went for everyone.

Three birdies and no bogeys suggest serene progress, but Scheffler had to dig deep too. A case in point was the par-five 4th when his drive found itself behind a tree. He shovelled it down the fairway as best he could and then completed a comfortable par. "A really good up and down to keep the round going. That was good momentum," he said.

Nobody found it comfortable, but Callum Tarren could have been forgiven for thinking that way after he birdied three of his opening four holes. The Englishman hung on to finish alongside McIlroy. Today will be another grind and, for some, Groundhog Day.

US PGA Championship
Oak Hill, Rochester
Second day
TV: Sky Sports Golf & Main Event, from 1pm

AARON DOSTER/REUTERS/USA TODAY



DeChambeau has been on the margins but fired himself back into the spotlight with a round of 66 at Oak Hill yesterday

Early first-round scores

Oak Hill Country Club, Rochester, New York
United States unless stated

66 B DeChambeau.
67 S Scheffler, C Conners (Can).
68 R Fox (NZ), V Hovland (Nor), K Bradley.
69 J Suh. **70** A Svensson (Can), H Varner III, K Kitayama, M NeSmith. **71** S Stevens, B Hossler, S Theegala, R McIlroy (N Ire), C Morikawa, C Tarren (Eng), M Hubbard. **72** K Higa (Japan), D Riley, B Koepka, J Thomas, P Harrington (Ire), J T Poston, C Smith (Aus), B Steele, L Donald (Eng). **73** Lee Min-woo (Aus), Lee Kyoung-hoon (S Kor), G Woodland, J Walker, S Lowry (Ire), J Spieth, D Burmester (SA). **74** J Dahmen, A Schenk, A Putnam, T Hoge, S Stallings, Z Johnson, J Niemann (Chile), A Noren (Swe), M Hughes (Can), T Moore, J Wells. **75** J Speight, B Griffin, T Lawrence (SA), W Worthington II, N Echavarria (Col), A Otaegui (Sp), K Kisner, L Hodges, A Meronk (Pol), D McCarthy, R Hoshino (Japan). **76** N Hojgaard (Den), S Holmes, M Fitzpatrick (Eng), J Rahm (Sp), D Lingmerth (Swe), Y Paul (Ger), A Arnaus (Sp), J Day (Aus). **77** T Mullinax, C Inglis, W Clark, O Strydom (SA), D Thompson, J Droemer. **78** C French, E Grillo (Arg), M McNealy. **79** B Shattuck, A Cordes. **80** S Alker (NZ). **81** S Micheel, K Pigman.

Ex-girlfriend of Woods fails to void NDA

Tom Kershaw

A Florida judge has rejected a request by Tiger Woods's former girlfriend to void a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) that was signed during their relationship. Lawyers for Erica Herman, 39, had cited the Speak Out Act, a clause in federal law that states an NDA connected to claims of sexual harassment can be declared void, which would have allowed a separate $30 million (£24 million) eviction suit against the trust that owns Woods's Florida mansion to be heard in a public court.

Woods, 47, said the NDA, which Herman signed in 2017, should mean that any disputes go straight to private arbitration and Judge Elizabeth Metzger agreed with him, describing Herman's allegations as "vague and threadbare".

"Herman has had the opportunity to provide factual specificity for any claim relating to sexual assault or sexual harassment, however she has not done so," Metzger wrote.

Herman claims their relationship ended in October after she was told to meet the 15-times major champion at the airport for a trip to the Bahamas but was instead met by Woods's lawyer, who "out of the blue, told her she was not going anywhere, would never see Woods again, had been locked out of the house, and could not return".

Her lawsuit relates to an "oral tenancy deal", which she claims allowed her to live at Woods's mansion for 11 years, where she provided "valuable services" for him.

Yesterday's racing results

Perth

Going: good

2.15 (2m 47yd hdle) 1, **Bix Beiderbecke** (P W Wadge, 4-1); 2, Knocknacree (7-2); 3, Lacila Blue (5-2 fav). 7 ran. NR: Captain Nelson. 3l, 6½l. Miss Lucinda V Russell.

2.50 (2m 7f 180yd ch) 1, **Bodhisattva** (S Bowen, 8-15 fav); 2, Western Run (2-1); 3, Get 'em In (12-1). NR: Conkwell Legend. 8l, 53l. G Elliott.

3.25 (2m 4f 35yd hdle) 1, **Trebizond** (G Sheehan, 15-2); 2, Darkest Day (17-2); 3, Haribo Collonges (11-10 fav). 9 ran. NR: Born Famous, Nowinittowinit. 3l, 4¼l. R M Smith.

4.00 (2m 47yd hdle) 1, **Calico** (S Bowen, 3-1); 2, Scots Poet (9-4 fav); 3, Palm Beach (18-1). 6 ran. NR: Ballycoose, Glentruan. ½l, 13l. G Elliott.

4.35 (2m 7f 180yd ch) 1, **Victory Echo** (Conor Rabbitt, 7-5); 2, Everyday Champagne (11-10 fav); 3, Methodtothemadness (9-2). NR: Breaking The Ice, Frau Georgia, Uptown Harry, Wild Polly. 6l, 7l. M A Barnes.

5.06 (2m 4f 20yd ch) 1, **Friary Rock** (Adam Wedge, 5-1); 2, Sword Of Fate (4-1 Co fav); 3, Izzy's Champion (4-1 Co fav). 7 ran. NR: Azof Des Mottes, One For Dan. 2½l, 1½l. L Morgan.

5.38 (2m 47yd hdle) 1, **Just Dottie** (Ryan Mania, 9-2); 2, Beauty To Behold (4-1); 3, Rose Of Siena (9-1). 8 ran. NR: Silver Vision. 4¾l, ¾l. R M Smith.

Placepot: £55.90. **Quadpot: £18.00.**

Salisbury

Going: good

1.30 (6f) 1, **Redredrobin** (Liam Wright, 7-2); 2, First Company (9-2); 3, My Genghis (9-4 fav). 7 ran. NR: On Edge, Q Twenty Boy. ½l, 1l. M S Saunders.

2.05 (5f) 1, **Relief Rally** (T Marquand, 9-4); 2, Juniper Berries (10-11 fav); 3, Unbreak My Heart (14-1). 6 ran. 1¾l, 1l. W J Haggas.

2.35 (5f) 1, **Palmar Bay** (Rob Hornby, 3-1); 2, Jasour (11-4); 3, Mr Baloo (6-1). 5 ran. NR: Christian David. Nk, 1¾l. R M Beckett.

3.10 (6f) 1, **Zoukster** (T Marquand, 7-2 fav); 2, Princess Naomi (11-2); 3, My Mate Mike (16-1). 11 ran. 1¼l, 1¼l. E Walker.

3.45 (1m 1f 201yd) 1, **Kingfisher King** (T Marquand, 11-8 fav); 2, Ibrahimovic (11-4); 3, King Sharja (14-1). 11 ran. Sh hd, 3¾l. W J Haggas.

4.20 (1m 1f 201yd) 1, **Truthful** (T Marquand, 10-3); 2, Mantoog (11-8 fav); 3, La Isla Mujeres (9-2). 11 ran. NR: Malka. Hd, nk. W J Haggas.

4.55 (1m 4 f 5yd) 1, **True Legend** (L Morris, 9-4 fav); 2, Campaign Trail (7-2); 3, Lionella (12-1). 9 ran. NR: Come Musica, Think Champagne. 1¼l, 2¾l. Sir Mark Prescott.

Placepot: £16.50. **Quadpot: £5.70.**

York

Going: good (good to firm in places)

1.50 (5f) 1, **Regional** (Callum Rodriguez, 5-1); 2, Korker (13-2); 3, Bedford Flyer (25-1). 13 ran. NR: Ghathanfar. ½l, 1l. E Bethell.

2.25 (1m 2f 56yd) 1, **Free Wind** (L Dettori, 6-5 fav); 2, Rogue Millennium (20-1); 3, Poptronic (25-1). 7 ran. NR: Toskana Belle. ½l, 2¾l. J & T Gosden.

3.00 (7f 192yd) 1, **Croupier** (W Buick, 7-1); 2, Point Lynas (18-1); 3, Northern Express (7-2 fav). 16 ran. NR: Symbol Of Light, Brunch. hd, ns. S & E Crisford.

3.35 (1m 2f 56yd) 1, **The Foxes** (Oisin Murphy, 6-1); 2, White Birch (9-1); 3†, Continuous (6-1). 3†, Passenger (9-2 fav). 11 ran. NR: King Of Steel. Nk, 1¼l. A M Balding.

4.10 (5f) 1, **Great State** (Oisin Murphy, 13-2); 2, Pillow Talk (12-1); 3, Michaela's Boy (33-1). 10 ran. NR: Katey Kontent. 2½l, nk. R A Fahey.

4.45 (6f) 1, **Cuban Thunder** (Kevin Stott, 5-4 fav); 2, Impressive Act (5-2); 3, We Never Stop (16-1). 10 ran. NR: Emperor Of Rome. 2l, hd. D J S Ffrench Davis.

5.20 (1m 3f 188yd) 1, **Chesspiece** (R L Moore, 3-1 fav); 2, Land Legend (8-1); 3, Rathgar (15-2). 11 ran. NR: Roll It In Glitter. 1¼l, ¾l. S & E Crisford.

Jackpot: £11,528.10 — part won. Pool of £15,424.92 carried forward to York today.

Placepot: £125.90. **Quadpot: £19.00.**

Fontwell Park

Going: good

4.50 (2m 1f 162yd hdle) 1, **Somespring Special** (Ben Godfrey, Evens fav); 2, Komedy Kicks (11-8); 3, Stormbomber (100-1). 7 ran. 4¼l, 16l. A J Honeyball.

5.25 (2m 1f 162yd hdle) 1, **He's A Latchico** (J E Moore, 5-2 fav); 2, Charlie My Boy (8-1); 3, Miss Fedora (80-1). 12 ran. NR: Tara Iti. 1¼l, 5½l. G L Moore.

5.55 (2m 3f 104yd ch) 1, **Farouk De Cheneau** (S Twiston-Davies, 9-4); 2, Glengeever (11-2); 3, Any News (2-1 fav). 4 ran. 16l, 1l. A J Honeyball.

6.30 (2m 3f 49yd hdle) 1, **In The Air** (J E Moore, 11-4); 2, Small Bad Bob (13-8 fav); 3, Times Are Blue (17-2). 5 ran. Nk, 25l. G L Moore.

7.05 (2m 5f 164yd hdle) 1, **Pure Theatre** (Jack Martin, 9-4 fav); 2, Midnight Gold (100-30); 3, Micronormous (11-1). 7 ran. NR: Energy One. Nk, 1l. A J Honeyball.

7.40 (2m 1f 165yd ch) 1, **Post No Bills** (Sam Twiston-Davies, 5-2 fav); 2, Pleasure Garden (5-1); 3, Millies Mite (12-1). 8 ran. NR: Martin Spirit. 9½l, 1½l. R Potter.

8.15 (3m 1f 166yd hdle) 1, **San Pedro** (H Cobden, 5-4 fav); 2, Fifty Ball (100-30); 3, Moon King (100-30). 6 ran. NR: Scamallach Liath. ¾l, 19l. P Henderson.

Placepot: £15.80.

Quadpot: £7.50.

Newmarket

Going: good to soft (good in places)

5.15 (6f) 1, **Flag Of St George** (Robert Tart, 13-8 fav); 2, Maymay (22-1); 3, States (125-1). 14 ran. 2¼l, 1¼l. Jane Chapple-Hyam.

5.45 (1m) 1, **Zara's Return** (J Fanning, 22-1); 2, Star Guest (2-1 fav); 3, Tulekya (33-1). 13 ran. NR: Break The Spell. 1½l, nk. W Stone.

6.20 (7f) 1, **English Rose** (Harry Davies, 9-2); 2, Spring Dawn (8-11 fav); 3, Achillea (66-1). 11 ran. 1l, 2l. C Appleby.

6.55 (7f) 1, **Lord Rapscallion** (Ray Dawson, 16-1); 2, Royal Musketeer (13-2); 3, Makeen (9-2). 8 ran. 1l, ½l. S Williams.

7.30 (1m 4f) 1, **Cumulonimbus** (Harry Davies, 7-2); 2, Hasty Sailor (14-1); 3, Appier (11-2). 7 ran. Nk, 1¼l. C Fellowes.

8.05 (1m 2f) 1, **Fox Journey** (Harry Davies, 9-2); 2, Mighty River (12-1); 3, Cavern Club (16-1). 9 ran. 2¾l, 3½l. Sir Michael Stoute.

8.40 (6f) 1, **Quinault** (L Catton, 6-1); 2, Ertebat (3-1 fav); 3, Fierce (9-2). 13 ran. 1½l, 2¼l. S Williams.

Placepot: £268.40. **Quadpot: £96.10.**

Gibson-Park must win the battle of No 9s



Stuart Barnes



Ireland were playing South Africa in last year's autumn internationals. It was Ireland at their least Irish. The game was slow and it suited South Africa. It was Conor Murray's 100th Test for his country but a groin injury brought his big day to a premature end.

It was the end in another way — the end of Murray's dream of reclaiming the scrum half starting berth from Jamison Gibson-Park. The 5ft 9in, 31-year-old dynamo hadn't played since July, but Andy Farrell's decision to throw his New Zealand-born No 9 straight back on to the bench and then in at the deep end worked wonderfully.

Suddenly there was tempo, a turbo injection as the Leinster man shunted Ireland into overdrive from second gear. To some extent the same can be said for his impact since he first represented Ireland in late 2020. It is as if Ireland have an only slighter inferior version of the great Kiwi scrum half Aaron Smith to galvanise them. Gibson-Park has been that good, for his adopted country and Leinster. Johnny Sexton is a legend, but Gibson-Park is as central to Ireland's World Cup prospects as he is to Leinster's chances of racing away from La Rochelle to win tomorrow's Heineken Champions Cup final.

The world's finest player, Antoine Dupont, moved to fly half early on in the semi-final between the Irish province and Toulouse last month. He was full of tricks in the less-familiar position but the change freed Gibson-Park to boss the game with his blistering speed of pass, turn of foot and mental acuity. It was all very Smith; the manner in which he assesses whether to pass left or right, kick or carry before he gets those fast hands on the ball. Dan Carter was hailed as the hero of the All Blacks' 2015 World Cup triumph, but Smith made everything so easy for him when the pressure built in the semi-final and final.

It is no coincidence that Sexton, the injured Leinster captain, has rediscovered his form moving towards his 38th birthday. His scrum half is giving him extra seconds to tiptoe on to the gainline, where his varied game allows the least time for opposing defences.

This column concerns scrum halves but it is impossible not to mention Ronan O'Gara, the man who will at least plan to stop Gibson-Park in his tracks. The former Ireland fly half, now the head coach of La Rochelle, knows as well as anyone about the benefit of a slick-serving scrum half. He formed a formidable partnership, for Munster and Ireland, with the precision-passing Peter Stringer, who gave O'Gara an endless stream of quick ball. The magisterial No 10 wouldn't have wanted it any other way, but a few more breaks from the No 9 might have enabled O'Gara to operate in a few more threatening positions with ball in hand.

Stringer lived up to the maxim of "don't attempt too many breaks, but make them decisive when you do". The pass master spent a career biding his time before sprinting down the unmarked blind side of a scrum in the Heineken Cup final against Biarritz in 2006. The French side had done their homework. The scrum half *never* ran. But he did this time — all the way into Munster legend.

Gibson-Park is grabbing his share of the glory with his supreme support lines and constant 100mph game control. O'Gara's gang smashed Leinster at the breakdown in last season's final. In the process they manhandled the scrum half. It was Sexton who was seen to wobble uncharacteristically, but such is the way when the scrum half struggles. It was the same with Carter and Smith.

La Rochelle won last year's final without their own influential Kiwi scrum half. Tawera Kerr-Barlow is a different sort of No 9, offering a more obvious individual threat. His five tries in seven games during this European campaign are testament to his running skills. He snipes, darts, throws outrageous dummies. You can't take your eyes off him. He tore Exeter Chiefs to bits around the fringes in the semi-final.

Gibson-Park possesses a quicker pair of hands but the 6ft 1½in Kerr-Barlow picks stunning angles off breakdowns that are inevitably front-foot moves given his pack of behemoths. And scrum halves don't only have close connections with their No 10s. His relationship with his world-class No 8 Grégory Alldritt is special. The two of them are capable of conjuring space from nowhere with soft hands and acute angled runs.

This final is of interest to Eddie Jones, the former England head coach now in charge of Australia, and not just because Will Skelton is in La Rochelle's ranks. Kerr-Barlow won the most recent of his 29 caps for the All Blacks caps in 2017. Under new World Rugby guidelines, the 32-year-old became available for Australia, his country of birth, last year. The former Waikato Chiefs player was a regular understudy for Smith, going back a decade, and has proven Test-match credentials, even if they are a little rusty. With Australia having firepower behind the scrum, La Rochelle's pivot is better equipped to unleash a back line than the more conservative kick-oriented former Exeter Chiefs No 9, Nic White.

What better stage to make a point than in the pressure cauldron of a Champions Cup final in Dublin against what constitutes the core of the world's No 1-rated Test team?

It promises to be an enthralling final with the scene set for scrum halves to take centre stage. Will Gibson-Park cement his position as one of the world's best, or will Kerr-Barlow force Eddie to come calling?

European finals

Toulon v Glasgow Warriors
Challenge Cup; today, 8pm
Leinster v La Rochelle
Champions Cup; tomorrow, 4.45pm
Aviva Stadium, Dublin **TV** BT Sport

CONTINUED FROM BACK

Demoted Wasps hit out at RFU

demands. Wasps agreed to the conditions but the club were unable to secure guaranteed funding because of the uncertainty around the professional game in England, so the RFU ejected them from the Championship. The RFU said Wasps would drop to the bottom of the league pyramid, three levels below Wasps FC, the amateur club that play in Herts/Middlesex 1.

"This is not the outcome anyone in rugby wanted and all those involved with the club will be deeply disappointed," Bill Sweeney, the RFU chief executive, said.

"We have worked with the new owners the past six months to try to ensure that a robust plan could be put in place for the club to continue to play in the Championship while players and staff could receive monies owed to them."

Wasps are very bitter about the situation, arguing that their hopes of returning to action in the Championship were killed off by a lack of clarity from the RFU over the future of England's top two divisions.

Christopher Holland, who owned the Wasps training ground, lifted the club out of administration when he bought the club's intellectual property, history and memorabilia via his company Halo22 Ltd.

Holland said he had made progress in reviving the historic club — two-times European champions — revealing that Wasps had secured a kit deal and a headline sponsor, and had identified a pool of 37 coaches and 232 players from which they could recruit a squad within a week. Wasps had approval to play at Solihull Moors FC and had applied to use Sixways, the former home of Worcester Warriors. They had investors lined up to bankroll the club.

But the club were caught in a vicious circle. The investors needed clarity over proposals that the Premiership would be relaunched as a ten-team league in 2024, most likely as a ring-fenced division for the foreseeable future. Holland sought clarity from the RFU over the prospects of any club winning promotion from the Championship and whether the new league would receive greater funding after the 2024 relaunch.

Championship clubs receive about £100,000 from the RFU each year compared with more than £4 million in the Premiership. Wasps had to sell their Premiership "P share" — which entitles shareholders to a percentage of the central income of the league and gives a club voting rights on key issues — for £9.8 million after going bust.

The RFU was unable to provide that clarity because the negotiations have not been concluded. Without those answers, Wasps could not get their potential investors to commit.

"Operating in a void between regulatory authorities that were managed by strict governance requirements, and a Championship that had not been engaged in our membership and who, perhaps understandably, offered some resentment to our inclusion, has been challenging," Wasps said in a statement.

"Whilst the investment interest continues, we regret to say that the current state of rugby finances, the lack of clarity on the league structure and concerns over promotion have caused the investor group to remain silent and fatigued.

"On two occasions we asked the RFU for an extension … for the RFU to establish a clear vision and direction of travel so that our investor pool were able to see equitable funding for the Championship and a clear pathway to promotion.

"The recent revelations around the possible ring-fencing of the Premiership for three to five years has further weakened our investment position. Given there is a deficit of £4 million+ in funding between the Premiership and the Championship, the only route of promotion includes the very problem of excessive funding that perpetuates the business system failure."

Thomas set for battle in mountains with Roglic

Cycling Geraint Thomas avoided calamity to retain the *Maglia Rosa* in the final stage before the Giro d'Italia gets serious and mountainous (Elgan Alderman writes). "We achieved our objective of getting through the stage without issues," Ineos Grenadiers reported after the finish.

Ineos rolled over the line in Rivoli, 185km from the start in Bra, more than eight minutes behind the breakaway trio that contested the stage-12 honours. Primoz Roglic, Thomas's lead rival after Remco Evenepoel had to abandon the race with Covid and Ineos co-leader Tao Geoghegan Hart suffered a fractured hip in a fall, coasted in with Thomas to remain two seconds behind the Welshman.

Today brings three big climbs including the Croix de Coeur which breaks the 2,000m barrier and is making its grand-tour debut.

Nadal reveals that he plans to retire in 2024

Stuart Fraser Tennis Correspondent

Rafael Nadal has announced his intention to retire from tennis next year after confirming his withdrawal from the French Open and Wimbledon.

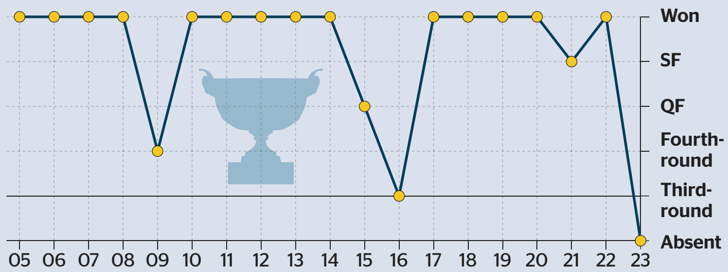
The 36-year-old, who jointly holds the record of 22 grand-slam men's singles titles with Novak Djokovic, has conceded defeat in his bid to be fit for Roland Garros, a tournament he has won on 14 occasions. A lingering hip problem will keep him off the tour for up to six months, meaning that he is unlikely to return before the Davis Cup Finals in Malaga in November.

Beyond this, Nadal is planning a farewell tour in 2024 after admitting he is close to the end of his tether after a series of physical problems. The Spaniard is renowned for his warrior-like spirit but acknowledged he had struggled to be satisfied with life as a player because of the regular pain he has experienced in recent years.

"My ambition is to stop to give myself an opportunity to enjoy next year, which is probably going to be my last year on the professional tour," Nadal said. "That's my idea, even though I can't say 100 per cent that it is going to be like this because you never know what can happen. But my idea and my motivation is to try to say goodbye to all of the tournaments that have been important for me and my tennis career.

Near perfection in Paris

Nadal has never before missed Roland Garros since his debut there in 2005. In that time he has missed four Wimbledons, four US Opens and two Australian Opens



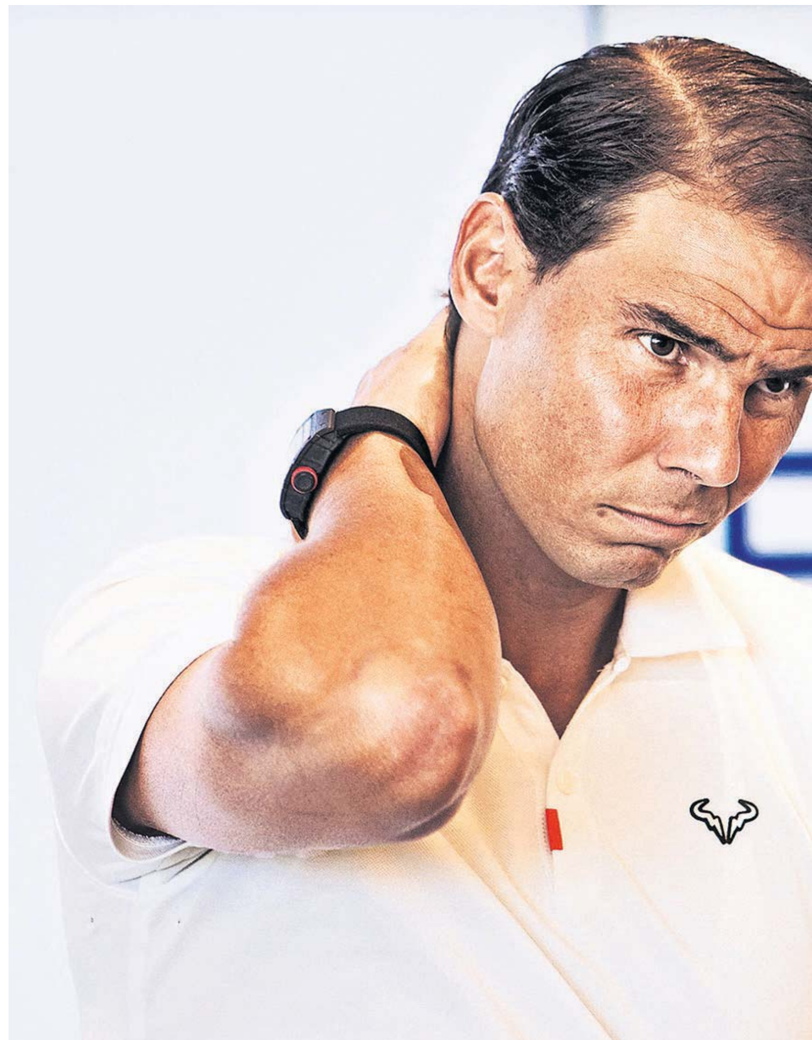
"The real situation is I was not able to enjoy my daily work. Since the pandemic my body wasn't able to hold the practices and daily work in a good way. I was not able to enjoy because there was too many problems, too many times having to stop for physical issues and too many days of practising with too much pain. I don't know when I am going to be able to come back to the practice court but I want to stop for a while, maybe two to four months."

Nadal has not contested a match since his Australian Open second-round loss to the American Mackenzie McDonald on January 18. Presently ranked No 14 in the world, his inability to defend his French Open title means he will drop out of the top 100 for the first time since he was aged 16 in 2003.

The issue that has troubled Nadal this year is in the psoas muscle of his left hip, which connects the spine to the legs. He has held regular training sessions at his academy in Mallorca this year but never felt fit enough to compete in the European clay-court swing.

"It has been very difficult because we were not able to find the solution to the problem I had in Australia," Nadal said. "I am still in the position that I'm not able to feel myself ready to compete to the standards that I made to play at Roland Garros."

Alongside Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer, Nadal will be remembered



Nadal, winner of 22 grand-slam singles titles, has admitted defeat in his battle



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JAIME REINA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



against a number of physical ailments

Nadal's possible farewell tour

January 15, 2024
Australian Open, Melbourne
March 6
Indian Wells Open, California
April 7
Monte Carlo Masters
April 15
Barcelona Open
April 24
Madrid Open
May 8
Italian Open, Rome
May 26
French Open, Paris
July 1
Wimbledon, London
July 27
Paris Olympics
August 26
US Open, New York

for one of the finest careers in tennis history. Known as the "King of Clay", he has succeeded across all surfaces, winning four US Opens, two Wimbledons, two Australian Opens and one Olympic gold at Beijing 2008. He was ranked world No1 for a total of 209 weeks.

Nadal's last hurrah on the tour is likely to be feverish and emotional. As well as saying farewell at the traditional tournaments, he will have the chance to contest a unique event at the Paris Olympics, where the tennis will be held at Roland Garros, so will be on clay for the first time since Barcelona 1992.

"It's difficult for me to predict what's going to happen and how my body is going to be, so I don't want to say one thing and then do the other now," Nadal said. "It's better to hold the options open and see what's the best calendar possible. I will like to play the things that are important for me and of course the Olympic Games is one of the competitions I will love to be in."

Nadal will be in the unusual position of watching the French Open from afar — the last time he missed the full event was in 2004 when an ankle injury denied him a debut. The door is now open for Djokovic to take the outright lead at the top of the men's singles grand-slam count with a 23rd major.

"Roland Garros will always be Roland Garros with or without me," Nadal said. "It will keep being the best event in the world of clay. Players stay for a while and they leave, tournaments stay for ever."

● Nick Kyrgios's withdrawal from the French Open was because of a cut foot sustained when a man allegedly stole his car at gunpoint, his agent says, rather than knee surgery. Daniel Horsfall said: "During the ordeal he cut his foot quite badly. It's not healing correctly and he can't put in the work on court."

Klopp gets touchline ban for Villa game after referee rant

Football
Paul Joyce

Jürgen Klopp has been given a two-match touchline ban, suspended for one game, for his comments about the referee Paul Tierney in the aftermath of Liverpool's win over Tottenham Hotspur.

The Liverpool manager will therefore not be in the dugout for tomorrow's Premier League game against Aston Villa at Anfield, but should return against Southampton on the final day of the season. The second match of the ban is suspended until the end of the 2023-24 season on the condition that he does not commit any further breaches of FA rules.

Klopp was also fined £75,000 by an independent disciplinary commission, having been charged by the FA with questioning the integrity of Tierney after the 4-3 victory against Spurs at Anfield on April 30. Confirmation of the punishment comes the day after the FA announced that Tierney, 42, would take charge of the FA Cup final between Manchester City and Manchester United at Wembley on June 3.

Klopp had initially accused Tierney of having an agenda against Liverpool and also alleged the referee had spoken to him in an inappropriate manner when showing him a yellow card for confronting the fourth official, John Brooks, as he celebrated Diogo Jota's stoppage-time winner. Klopp later withdrew those remarks, while Professional Game Match Officials Limited, the elite referees' body, insisted an audio recording of the incident proved Tierney had behaved in a "professional manner". A full transcript of the exchange appears in the full written reasons for the commission's decision:

Brooks: Jürgen Klopp has just run and celebrated in my face. I think it's a yellow card mate, minimum.

VAR: Confirming yellow card. Confirming yellow card Jürgen Klopp.

Paul Tierney: Right… I have to show you yellow. It could be red, but I am going to show you yellow. He said yellow. We will give you the benefit of the doubt, don't do anything more.

Klopp had previously questioned Tierney's officiating, having been incensed that he did not send off Harry Kane for a bad tackle on Andrew Robertson in a 2-2 draw with Tottenham in December 2021 then refused to award Liverpool a penalty and showed Robertson a red card. Klopp had been on a warning, having been banned for one match for confronting the referee, Anthony Taylor, during the win over Manchester City at Anfield in October.

Tierney was also the referee for the 2-2 draw with Arsenal at Anfield last month in which the assistant referee, Constantine Hatzidakis, appeared to strike Robertson, the Liverpool defender, with an elbow.

Klopp submitted a letter in response to the FA charge, in which the German apologised and admitted he deserved his yellow card, before again questioning the number of Liverpool games Tierney has officiated of this season.

US rivals step up interest in Everton

Paul Joyce
Northern Football Correspondent

The American investment company, 777 Partners, have firmed up their interest in Everton, although the club's owner, Farhad Moshiri, is continuing his negotiations with other potential investors.

The Miami-based business is understood to have made a financial offer on Wednesday, while MSP Sports Capital, whom Moshiri knows personally, have been in advanced talks since January.

The Iranian billionaire has been seeking a final tranche of funding for Everton's new £500 million stadium at Bramley-Moore Dock, which is under construction. The financial terms on offer from 777 are unclear, but are said to be for a "big percentage" of Moshiri's 94 per cent shareholding.

Both firms are already involved in professional football with 777, who had previously suggested investing about £100 million in Everton. They already hold interests in Hertha Berlin, Sevilla, Vasco da Gama and Standard Liege.

MSP, whose Iranian-American chairman Jahm Najafi and chief executive Jeff Moorad attended Everton's home defeat by Southampton in January, are aligned with Augsburg in Germany, AD Alcorcón in Spain, Portugal's GD Estoril and Belgium's SK Beveren. Sources said MSP remained the front-runner in the process.



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Moyes hails his ‘finest achievement’

AZ Alkmaar	**0**
West Ham United *Fornals 90+4*	**1**

West Ham win 3-1 on aggregate
James Gheerbrant Alkmaar

West Ham United will play in their first European final since 1976 after they negotiated a nervy second leg against AZ Alkmaar, then applied a late coup de grâce through Pablo Fornals’ breakaway goal.

The occasion was marred by a disgraceful incident after the final whistle when hooded Alkmaar fans ran round the perimeter and attacked the section where the West Ham players’ families were sitting. It took some of the gloss off the moment, but none of the glee felt by David Moyes and his squad.

After their Europa League adventure was ended at the semi-final stage by Eintracht Frankfurt last season, West Ham have exorcised that miserable memory. “I talked about it to the players before the match,” Moyes said. “We reminded the players how we felt, how we didn’t want to feel that way again.”

Moyes becomes the first British manager since Sir Alex Ferguson in 2011 to reach a European final. He described it as “probably, in many ways” the finest achievement of his career.

It has been a season of regression in the Premier League for West Ham, but now the final in Prague, against Fiorentina on June 7, looms as the club’s biggest match in years, a chance to completely change the narrative of this campaign. The captain Declan Rice, who celebrated by passionately pumping his arms towards the away supporters, is now one step away from joining Bobby Moore in lifting a European trophy for West Ham, and thus definitively enshrining himself as a club legend.

The match itself was one that West Ham contained rather than controlled. They had only 30 per cent of possession and spent much of it defending in their own half but they did so with shape and discipline, and Alkmaar struggled to turn their pressure into clear chances. West Ham weathered some early Alkmaar attacks before their first spell of settled possession in the attacking half ended with a searching cross by Thilo Kehrer being half-cleared and Jarrod Bowen dragging a shot wide from the edge of the box. Lucas Paquetá then attempted to slip in Michail Antonio, but the connection went awry.

Alkmaar’s attacking play was more fluid and they went close when a nice rotation opened space for Myron van Brederode to whip a cross to the near post that was missed by the hulking Greek centre forward Vangelis Pavlidis.

West Ham came within inches of establishing a much more comfortable position in the tie. It came when Paquetá cut inside onto his left foot and launched a low, whipped shot which brushed the outside of the left post. West Ham’s next effort, from Saïd Benrahma, matched Paquetá’s for audacity but not for accuracy.

Alkmaar ended the half strongly when a well-worked triangle on the left allowed Milos Kerkez to put in a cross which bobbled awkwardly and almost allowed Jesper Karlsson to cut the ball back from inside the six-yard box. That flank was beginning to prove a source of discomfort for West Ham and when another attack resulted in a cross glanced dangerously across the goalmouth, Nayef Aguerd needed to deflect a shot from Yukinari Sugawara wide.

The home side were adept at working the ball into the half-spaces, but lacking the presence in the centre of the box to add a razor edge to their pretty possession: a theme which continued shortly after the interval when Kerkez’s cross flashed through the six-yard box untouched. Then Sven Mijnans sent a scuffed shot at Alphonse Areola, the first shot on target of the match.

West Ham were living dangerously. A quick vertical move down the centre of the pitch gave Tijjani Reijnders a huge chance to slip in Pavlidis, but his pass was overhit and his hands went straight to his head. At the other end, Rice was given too much space and his awkward, dipping shot was well dealt with by Mat Ryan. Then Moyes’s team survived a heart-in-mouth moment in their box when a long ball forward was well controlled by Pavlidis, who used his body to hold off Aguerd before tumbling under the attentions of the Moroccan. Alkmaar screamed for a VAR review, but none was forthcoming.

Pavlidis was beginning to warm to his task and he left West Ham defenders trailing as he surged forward and struck a high shot from an angle which Areola had to push over. His compatriot Pantelis Hatzidiakos, the Alkmaar centre back, was also having a fine game and after dispossessing Antonio cleanly, strode forward, called for the cross and rifled in a low shot which Areola did well to hold.

West Ham were on the defensive but always posed a threat on the break. Antonio harried Hatzidiakos into a horrible mistake, Bowen surged through on goal but his pull-back was behind Benrahma and Alkmaar were reprieved. With the game stretching open, there were chances at both ends and Aguerd had a huge opportunity but scuffed a swinging finish wide. In the end, Alkmaar had nothing left, and West Ham would not be denied their shot at glory.

AZ Alkmaar (4-3-3): M Ryan 6 — Y Sugawara 7, S Beukema 6, P Hatzidiakos 6, M Kerkez 7 (M De Wit 85min) — S Mijnans 6 (D De Wit 70, 6), J Clasie 6, T Reijnders 6 — M van Brederode 6 (M Lahdo 78), V Pavlidis 7, J Karlsson 7 (M Meerdink 85).
West Ham United (4-3-3): A Areola 6 — T Kehrer 6, K Zouma 7, N Aguerd 7, A Cresswell 6 — T Soucek 6, D Rice 7, L Paquetá 7 (F Downes 90+5) — J Bowen 6, M Antonio 6 (D Ings 85), S Benrahma 6 (P Fornals 75 7). **Booked** Soucek, Kehrer.
Referee I Kruzliak (Slo).

Europa Conference League final

West Ham v Fiorentina
Prague’s Eden Arena
Wednesday, June 7, 8pm

DEFODI IMAGES; SOCCRATES IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES;







Fornals takes the acclaim after his late goal that sealed a place in the final, but celebrations at full-time were marred by crowd trouble and some West Ham players, concerned about the welfare of their families, were seen entering the stands

West Ham players leap to defence of families

Gregor Robertson Alkmaar

West Ham United’s celebrations descended into chaos shortly after the final whistle when a group of AZ Alkmaar supporters, hooded and dressed in black, stormed the area of the AFAS Stadion where West Ham’s contingent of family and friends were seated.

For West Ham’s players, the joy of securing the club’s place in the Europa Conference League final quickly turned to fear for the safety of their loved ones, as it became clear that they were among a group of about 200 West Ham supporters being targeted.

Aaron Cresswell, Saïd Benrahma, Flynn Downes and Michail Antonio leapt over the advertising hoardings and came within feet of the 30 or so AZ ultras, while Declan Rice and Jarrod Bowen could be seen reacting with fury at the attack. Members of the coaching staff, including Kevin Nolan, and Mark Noble, the club’s sporting director, could be seen urging security to take action, as punches were being thrown. David Moyes, the West Ham manager, said: “There were players involved because they were seeing their family and friends in that area.”

Last week, a group of Alkmaar fans had to be moved from their seats by security at the London Stadium after the away side scored in the first leg. Pascal Jansen, the Alkmaar manager, said. “You get the feeling what happened is what happened last week. I feel a little ashamed it happened in our stadium.”

Wednesday reach play-off final after record comeback

Sheffield Wed *Smith 9 (pen), Gregory 25, James 71, Palmer 90+8, Paterson 112*	**5**
Peterborough *Gregory (og) 105*	**1**

League One play-off semi-final
5-5 on agg; Sheff Wed win 5-3 on pens
Jason Mellor

Sheffield Wednesday wiped out a four-goal deficit to pull off the greatest comeback in play-off history on a night of stunning drama at Hillsborough.

Wednesday scored deep into stoppage time to force extra time and then, after falling behind again, forced a penalty shoot-out. Jack Hunt scored the decisive penalty kick after Dan Butler had hit the bar for Peterborough to spark a mass pitch invasion by thousands of celebrating fans.

Until last night a two-goal deficit was the largest overturned in this format but Wednesday captain Barry Bannan said: “Everybody wrote us off and told us we couldn’t do it. It was all about believing and when we have the fans behind us anything is possible.

“Those who were booing us last week saying we’re not fit to wear the shirt, have a look at this. What he [Darren Moore, the manager] has done is unbelievable, to turn around the mindset of the players. I’m so proud of him how he’s handled this week after the racism he’s experienced. That one’s for him.”

Wednesday brought the aggregate scores level at 4-4 eight minutes into stoppage time — six minutes had been initially signalled by the referee — when Liam Palmer bundled the ball in from Aden Flint’s knockdown.

It capped an astonishing comeback sparked by two goals in the first 25 minutes. Michael Smith sent goalkeeper Will Norris the wrong way with a ninth-minute penalty after a foul on Marvin Johnson, before Lee Gregory halved the aggregate deficit with a close range finish from Callum Paterson’s low cross. The pressure continued after the break and finally told with 20 minutes remaining when Reece James burst into the box to score at the near post.

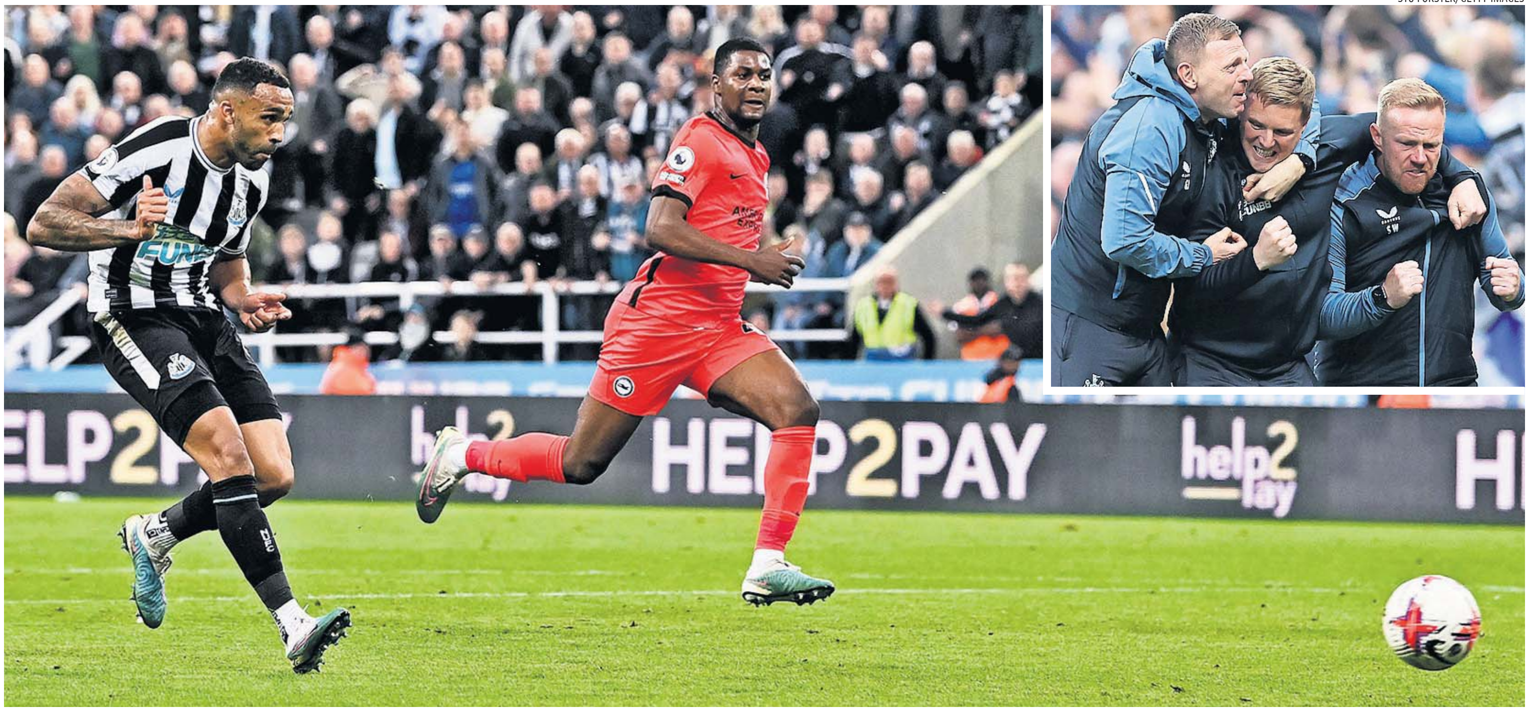
Peterborough looked to have held on until Palmer’s dramatic late intervention. Midway through extra time Gregory, under pressure from Nathan Thompson, headed into his own goal to put Peterborough back in front before Paterson pounced on a loose ball to fire home from six yards and level the aggregate scores at 5-5.

In the shoot-out, Wednesday scored five from five and now face Bolton Wanderers or Barnsley in the final at Wembley a week on Monday.



Wednesday goalkeeper Cameron Dawson celebrates an incredible win

Newcastle close in on Europe's elite





Henry Winter
Chief Football Writer

Newcastle United *Undav (og) 22, Burn 45+4, Wilson 89, Guimarães 90+1*	**4**
Brighton *Undav 51*	**1**

When Brighton & Hove Albion threatened an equaliser which would have damaged Newcastle United's hopes of Champions League qualification, Kieran Trippier stepped up. He was deep in the right back position, close to the corner flag, trying to fend off another Brighton incursion. Nerves rolled around St James' Park, permeating those beseeching to clear, to lift the Brighton siege, to edge closer to the Champions League. And then their captain took control.

Newcastle fans were desperate to return to the Champions League for the first time in 20 years. Reaching the competition would confirm their rise ahead of expectation and schedule under Eddie Howe. It would be the dream European tour, the trips usually enjoyed by other clubs. So they urged their team to get over the line.

Trippier knows what it means to play in the Champions League, having reached the final with Tottenham Hotspur and the quarter-finals with Atletico Madrid, and he loves the level and drama of the spectacle. He made sure Newcastle stayed on course.

He had already created Newcastle's first two goals, delivering set pieces that Brighton simply could not defend against. And when Brighton awoke, pulled a goal back and the tide on Tyneside looked like turning, Trippier stood firm as Brighton tried to create a crossing opportunity. He won the ball and calmly played it down the line to Miguel Almirón, who disappeared in a blur past orange shirts and released Callum Wilson, who then neatly placed his shot past Jason Steele, and the feeling of success replaced the stress.

Bruno Guimarães added a fourth in injury time, but the party was already started. Trippier's composure under pressure, his experience and his determination to return to the Champions League, was key. At 32, his motivation reigns supreme and his team-mates take extra inspiration. The likes of Guimarães (while at Lyon) and Sven Botman (Lille) have experienced the Champions League before, but most of Trippier's colleagues haven't.

Asked whether his captain had spoken of the competition's special nature to the squad, Howe replied: "If he has done, it was out of my earshot!"

In a way, Trippier hardly needed to. Newcastle's players will have watched Manchester City defeat Real Madrid the night before.

They could see what was up for grabs. Asked whether he understood what qualification "would mean", Howe was diplomatic, knowing that Newcastle still need a win to guarantee that (and they have Leicester City at home on Monday and then Chelsea away). He replied, simply: "It means everything to be where we are."

Newcastle are third, four points clear of fifth-placed Liverpool, who also have two games to play (Manchester United are fourth, a point clear of Liverpool, but with three games remaining).

"It means everything to play the way we are," Howe added. "It means everything to play in that atmosphere. It was great to see the people so happy."

The supporters sang loudly, asking for messages to be got through to their mothers that they were "going to Italy". And to other countries. They've waited long enough. In their last game in the Champions League in 2003, even players of the quality of Shay Given, Jonathan Woodgate, Kieron Dyer, Gary Speed and Alan Shearer could not find a way past Partizan Belgrade in the third qualifying round, bowing out on penalties.

So close to a return, they celebrated enthusiastically. The nature of Newcastle's ownership by the Saudis will never be ignored, but St James' Park is a place revived. The buzz is everywhere in the city, from the Quayside up the hill to pitchside. Newcastle have recruited well, not least Howe with his meticulous work and good signing of characters like Trippier, an outstanding captain who has had a terrific season.

This was one of his best games and most important. "Kieran's set play delivery was incredible," Howe said. "He created the first and second goals." When Lewis Dunk cleared as Joelinton tried to force the breakthrough after 21 minutes, Trippier curled in his corner and Deniz Undav jumped at the near post, trying to clear, but the ball flicked off the Brighton forward's head and carried on into the net.

Brighton should have learned not to concede set pieces. Undav, chasing back, fouled Joe Willock, gifting Trippier the opportunity to whip in a free kick from the right. After plenty of pushing and shoving, Trippier delivered the ball, flighting it perfectly for Dan Burn to beat Jan Paul van Hecke and head back in across Steele.

Burn, a local lad, was too busy celebrating the moment to worry about the feelings of his old club.

Brighton came out early for the second half, eager to make amends, although they were grateful to Steele for a good save from Almirón. It was actually a bad miss from Almirón and Brighton made him pay after 51 minutes. Billy Gilmour, collecting possession in the centre circle, threaded the ball past Guimarães and Fabian Schär for Undav. He entered the area, slowed, then accelerated, holding off Schär before sliding his shot past Nick Pope.

Brighton manager Roberto De Zerbi had held Alexis Mac Allister, Julio Enciso and Evan Ferguson back until just before the hour mark. De Zerbi then also sent on the 20-year-old Odeluga Offiah, the Camden-born nephew of the rugby league great, Martin. Offiah stepped into the right back role, freeing Moisés Caicedo to go into midfield. Offiah was quickly involved — a busy, mobile competitor with a neat touch. One thing that didn't change was Steele's second-half excellence, which included one close-range save from Alexander Isak's header.

Howe was also making changes, a forced one, as Willock pulled up clutching his left hamstring, his face revealing the pain. Elliot Anderson came on, a sign of Howe's faith, and was soon involved in a bout of pushing with Mac Allister; he then drove upfield until clattered by Van Hecke. Newcastle fans sensed the threat of the tide turning and got behind their team even more.

Trippier was superb, launching that counter that led to Wilson's goal. Relief swept through St James' Park and was soon followed by unadulterated joy. Wilson turned creator, setting up Guimarães, who drove the ball gleefully past Steele and propelled Newcastle to within touching distance of the Champions League. Trippier had lit the way. He knows the way.

How they stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Man City	35	27	4	4	92	31	61	85
Arsenal	36	25	6	5	83	42	41	81
Newcastle	36	19	12	5	67	32	35	69
Man United	35	20	6	9	51	41	10	66
Liverpool	36	19	8	9	70	42	28	65
Brighton	35	17	7	11	67	49	18	58
Tottenham	36	17	6	13	65	59	6	57
Aston Villa	36	17	6	13	48	44	4	57
Brentford	36	13	14	9	54	45	9	53
Fulham	36	15	6	15	52	49	3	51
Chelsea	35	11	10	14	36	41	-5	43
Crystal Palace	36	11	10	15	37	46	-9	43
Wolves	36	11	7	18	30	52	-22	40
Bournemouth	36	11	6	19	37	69	-32	39
West Ham	36	10	7	19	38	52	-14	37
Nottm Forest	36	8	10	18	36	67	-31	34
Everton	36	7	11	18	32	56	-24	32
Leeds	36	7	10	19	46	71	-25	31
Leicester	36	8	6	22	49	67	-18	30
Southampton (R)	36	6	6	24	31	66	-35	24

Remaining fixtures

Newcastle: Monday Leicester City (h) (8pm). **Sunday, May 28** Chelsea (a) (4.30pm).

Manchester Utd: Saturday Bournemouth (a) (3pm). **Thursday, May 25** Chelsea (h) (8pm). **May 28** Fulham (h) (4.30pm).

Liverpool: Saturday Aston Villa (h) (3pm). **May 28** Southampton (a) (4.30pm).

Brighton: Sunday Southampton (h) (2pm). Wednesday, **May 24** Manchester City (h) (8pm). **May 28** Aston Villa (a) (4.30pm).

Newcastle (4-3-3): N Pope 6 — K Trippier 8 (J Manquillo 90min), F Schär 6, S Botman 7, D Burn 7 — J Willock 6 (E Anderson 61, 6), B Guimarães 7, Joelinton 7 (M Targett 90) — M Almirón 7 (A Saint-Maximin 90), C Wilson 8, A Isak 7 (A Gordon 90). **Booked** Guimarães, Schär.
Brighton (4-2-3-1): J Steele 6 — M Caicedo 5, JP van Hecke 5, L Dunk 5, P Estupiñán 5 — P Gross 6 (O Offiah 69), B Gilmour 6 (A Mac Allister 56, 6) — F Buonanotte 5 (J Enciso 56, 6), D Undav 6 (C Peupion 84, 6), K Mitoma 6 — D Welbeck 5 (E Ferguson 56). **Booked** Undav, Mac Allister, Gross, Van Hecke.
Referee R Jones. **Attendance** 52,122.

Results

Football

Europa League
Semi-finals, second leg

B Leverkusen (0) **0** **Roma** (0) **0**
(Roma win 1-0 on agg)

Sevilla (0) **2** **Juventus** (0) **1**
Fernández 71 Vlahovic 65
Lamela 95
Sent off: M Acuña (Sevilla) 115
(aet; Sevilla win 3-2 on agg)

Europa Conference League
Semi-finals, second leg

AZ Alkmaar (0) **0** **West Ham** (0) **1**
Fornals 90+4
(West Ham United win 3-1 on agg)

Basel (0) **1** **Fiorentina** (1) **3**
Amdouni 55 González 35, 72
36,000 Barák 120+9
(aet; Fiorentina win 4-3 on agg)

Premier League

Newcastle (2) **4** **Brighton** (0) **1**
Undav 22 (og) Undav 51
Burn 45+4 52,122
Wilson 89
Guimarães 90+1

Sky Bet League One play-offs
Semi-final, second leg

Sheff Wed (2) **5** **Peterboro** (0) **1**
Smith 9 (pen) Gregory 105 (og)
Gregory 25 31,835
James 71
Palmer 90+8
Paterson 112
(aet; agg 5-5; Sheff Wed win 5-3 on pens)

Cycling

Giro d'Italia

Leading positions: 12th stage (Bra to Rivoli, 185km): 1, N Denz (Ger, BORA-hansgrohe) 4hr 18min 11sec; 2, T Skujin (Lat, Trek-Segafredo) same time; 3, S Berwick (Aus, Israel-Premier) at 3sec; 4, A Tonelli (It, Green Project-Bardiani-CSF) 58; 5, M Frigo (It, Israel-Premier) 2min 7sec; 6, I van Wilder (Bel, Soudal-Quick-Step) 2:20; 7, A Bettiol (It, EF Education-EasyPost); 8, C Scaroni (It, Astana-Qazaqstan); 9, M Hessmann (Ger, Jumbo-Visma); 10, A Baudin (Fr, AG2R-Citroen) all same time. **Overall** 1, G Thomas (GB, INEOS Grenadiers) 49:02:05; 2, P Roglic (Slove, Jumbo-Visma) at 2sec; 3, J Almeida (Por, UAE Team Emirates) 22; 4, A Leknessund (Nor, DSM) 35; 5, D Caruso (It, Bahrain Victorious) 1:28; 6, L Kämna (Ger, BORA-hansgrohe) 1:52; 7, E Dunbar (Ire, Jayco-AlUla) 2:32; 8, T Arensman (Neth, INEOS Grenadiers); 9, L De Plus (Bel, INEOS Grenadiers); 10, A Paret-Peintre (Fr, AG2R-Citroën) all same time; 12, H Carthy (GB, EF Education-EasyPost) 3:22.

Tennis

Internazionali BNL d'Italia

Rome: Men: Quarter-finals D Medvedev (Russ) bt Y Hanfmann (Ger) 6-2, 6-2; S Tsitsipas (Gr) bt B Coric (Cro) 6-3, 6-4.

Fixtures

Football

Sky Bet League One play-offs: Semi-final, second leg Barnsley (1) v Bolton (1) (8.0).

Cinch Scottish Premiership play-offs: Semi-final, first leg Partick Thistle v Ayr Utd (7.45).

Cinch League One play-offs: Final, second leg Clyde (1) v Annan (3) (7.35).

Cricket

LV= County Championship: Second day of four (11.0; 96 overs minimum): **Division One: Ageas Bowl** Hampshire v Northamptonshire. **Lord's** Middlesex v Somerset. **Trent Bridge** Nottinghamshire v Essex. **Kia Oval** Surrey v Kent. **Division Two: Bristol** Gloucestershire v Durham. **Hove** Sussex v Glamorgan. **Worcester** Worcestershire v Leicestershire.

Rugby league

Betfred Challenge Cup: Sixth round Halifax v St Helens (7.45); Hull Kingston Rovers v Batley (8.0); Wakefield Trinity v Leigh Leopards (7.45).

Rugby union

European Challenge Cup final Glasgow Warriors v Toulon (8.0, at Aviva Stadium, Dublin).

Budget cut riles Lopetegui

Tim Nash

Julen Lopetegui, the Wolverhampton Wanderers head coach, has claimed that he was misled over the club's summer transfer plans.

Lopetegui emerged from a meeting with Jeff Shi, the chairman, and said that concerns over the Premier League's Financial Fair Play (FFP) rules had altered the spending budget.

"I have had that meeting and I know now there are some Financial Fair Play problems that I didn't know before," Lopetegui said. "Now I hope we will solve this issue because it's very difficult to compete in the Premier League without investment. Despite the club investing this year it has been a very hard year, so we have to learn the lesson and to be able to do our homework and try to improve the team."

Wolves were bottom of the Premier League when Lopetegui, the former Spain and Real Madrid manager, took over in November but he steered them to safety with three games to spare. They are 13th and face relegation-threatened Everton at Molineux on Saturday. The club spent heavily in the January transfer window without recouping significant money in sales.

Asked if he is confident that the club can solve the problems, Lopetegui, 56, said: "I hope so. It's one thing I didn't know before."

City belong with Cruyff's Ajax

Matt Dickinson

Senior Sports Writer



It struck me by half-time on Wednesday night — Manchester City 196 touches in the attacking third, Real Madrid ten — that we were watching much more than a team closing in on the Treble. Something more significant, almost intangible, was being pursued by Pep Guardiola and his players.

In all that sublime control you could call it a quest for perfection (how to reduce Real to zero touches?) though the goalless Erling Haaland will not have imagined it was close to that — and certainly not the restless, insatiable Guardiola.

A pursuit of greatness? Arrigo Sacchi summed up this ambition when he was asked by Marco van Basten why their mighty AC Milan team not only had to win the biggest prizes but to do so emphatically, always striving for more.

Sacchi pulled out a football magazine which put that Milan side of 1989 — Ruud Gullit, Frank Rijkaard, Franco Baresi, Paolo Maldini *et al* — on a list of the greatest of all time and said to his Dutch striker that this was the sort of discussion that would truly define their legacy; it was not just about winning but how they did it.

"This is why you need to win and you need to be convincing," he told his Dutch striker. "I didn't do it because I wanted to write history, I did it because I wanted to give 90 minutes of joy to people. And I wanted that joy to come not from winning, but from being entertained, from witnessing something special. I did this out of passion, not because I wanted to manage Milan or win the European Cup."

Easier to say in the afterglow of historic victories, obviously, but Sacchi knew that his tactical innovation, a squad's vast talent and a grand stage had come together in perfect synchronicity. "The greatest compliment I received was when people said my football was like music," he noted.

What a waste if they did not create moments and matches such as a 5-0 rout of Real Madrid, at San Siro in April 1989, that was not just a famous semi-final triumph but a shift of the sport's tectonic plates.

A similar seismic shock unfolded on Wednesday and Guardiola and his players bear a responsibility to reach such peaks of mastery given the manager's brilliant creative mind and more than £1 billion spent on some of the planet's best footballers. Watching City *should* feel idealistic. It should feel like the creation, in front of our eyes, of a masterpiece like Sacchi's Milan and the grandest teams that have come before.

It is City's challenge to enter these discussions; yes, even before they have won a single prize this season. My colleague Martin Samuel put Guardiola's construction in that conversation in his piece from the Etihad and the debate is justified by much more than 45 minutes in which Luka Modric and Toni Kroos must have looked at Kevin De Bruyne's orchestration with Bobby Jones's anguish about Jack Nicklaus: "He plays a game with which I am not familiar."

City have not won anything yet, but maybe that is the point. Winning is one of the important criteria on which we judge greatness — Manchester United's 1998-99 Treble-winners triumphing when all seemed lost was a wondrous, defining quality — but sport at its most exalted offers so much more than winners and losers.

Forgive the name-drop but Johan Cruyff — clang! — taught me that precious lesson sitting in the shade of a tree in Catalonia in 2011 when I asked him whether Guardiola's Barcelona had to win a second Champions League trophy in three seasons to cement their reputation as a truly great team.

"That's absurd," Cruyff responded, testing convention as usual. "Winning is just one day, a reputation can last a lifetime. Winning is an important thing, but to have your own style, to have people copy you, to admire you, that is the greatest gift."

To have people copy you and admire you: that is surely essential to true greatness and, of course, Guardiola's team is itself an unfolding tribute to Cruyffian football with its relentless pressing, fluid movement, and patterns which make the man on the ball just one part of an unfolding ballet of overlaps, inversions and passes, passes, passes.

City have all this and their own modern twists. Guardiola has half-joked about a team of 11 midfielders but perhaps of all the people on the planet only he reimagined John Stones as one of them. The City manager is both a disciple of Cruyff and a one-off who has already changed English football in profound ways: opening minds and aspirations at all levels of the game, teaching us a new tactical language with ball-mastery at its heart.

Cruyff is, of course, the thread between the three greatest club teams; Ajax of 1972 (second of three successive European titles), AC Milan of 1989 (first of two), the Barcelona of Lionel Messi-Andrés Iniesta-Xavi which reached its peak at Wembley in 2011 (a second in three years). The team that most influenced Sacchi's development, with its rejection of Italian conventions, was Cruyff's Holland of the 1970s.

Jonathan Wilson, author of *Inverting the Pyramid*, once conducted an imagined tournament of the greatest club sides for *Sports Illustrated* and finished with the Ajax of 1972 pipping Guardiola's Barcelona in the final. City should barge their way into this debate.

They are not the first petrodollar-champions given Chelsea's rise under Roman Abramovich, but sovereign wealth has provided a financial clout which seemingly makes anything possible. It could be argued that the deals struck with Uefa over Financial Fair Play breaches and 115 outstanding charges from the Premier League will sour the legacy. I suspect the answer, for most of us, is not black and white. It is possible for City to have broken the rules and to deserve punishment, but also for Guardiola to be a rare genius who has built a side that need not have reached its apogee in that first-half battering of Real.

Their destiny? "It would be a sporting tragedy if a team as great as this did not win European football's greatest prize," Martin wrote. Perhaps, but actually I think a bigger prize is at stake when a squad has such depth of talent that Riyad Mahrez, Phil Foden and Julián Álvarez can be summoned off the bench.

Yes, it is about trophies. Sacchi proved that much when — perhaps my second-favourite name-drop — he once showed me around his home in Italy; it was a residence so classy that you hardly dared sit down for fear of finding out a couch was last used by Louis XIV in Versailles.

Sacchi led me upstairs to the gym, which seemed unremarkable until he pointed to a glass case containing two full-sized European Cups. Beaming proudly, he showed how he could run on his treadmill and gaze at his silverware. Not bad for a guy who started out selling shoes.

Guardiola should soon have the third of his own European trophies but will that prize, or a fourth or fifth, be his true legacy? Or will it be tens of millions of us mesmerised on Wednesday night wondering: "When was the last time I saw football as brilliant as this?"

We will all have our own answers — it is subjective and prone to recency bias. But never mind trophies, City will have fallen short if the greatness debate is not inflamed once more.



Gullit was part of the great Milan side that won back-to-back European Cups

CONTINUED FROM BACK

City's legal fight with league

seasons he was at the club, from 2009-13; and not providing full details of players' remuneration over six seasons, from 2010-11 to 2015-16.

City have employed a heavyweight legal team to deal with the Premier League's investigation and charges, including David Pannick KC. The club had previously issued legal challenges to the Premier League after an investigation was launched in December 2018 following the release of the "Football Leaks" emails obtained by the Portuguese hacker Rui Pinto, which suggested some sponsorship income from Abu Dhabi companies was in fact paid directly by the club's owners. Those challenges took until 2021 to reach a conclusion and it was not until February this year that charges were brought.

A High Court ruling in March 2021 revealed that "the PL has suggested that the Club [MCFC] has sought to delay its handing over of the relevant documents and information by making numerous procedural applications".

In October 2019, the Premier League began an arbitration process against City, seeking an order for the club to "deliver up documents and information which were being withheld".



Barrister Rosen's link to Arsenal has concerned City

One of the Court of Appeal judges, Lord Justice Males, said in a July 2021 ruling: "It is surprising, and a matter of legitimate public concern, that so little progress has been made after 2½ years — during which, it may be noted, the club has twice been crowned as Premier League champions."

City also employed a heavyweight legal team in successfully contesting charges brought by Uefa for breaches of its Financial Fair Play rules. Uefa initially imposed a two-year ban from European competitions but that was overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport in July 2020, which ruled that the charges were either time-barred or did not contain enough evidence.



ROMELU LUKAKU

Inter's potent attack and

Tom Allnutt

Few people will give Inter Milan much hope when they meet Manchester City in the Champions League final next month, but there are aspects of their style and identity that suggest the Italians could spring a surprise.

WEALTH OF ATTACKING OPTIONS

If Erling Haaland is City's lone tyrannosaurus rex, Inter have a pack of velociraptors — less potent on their own, but devastating when working together. In Edin Dzeko, Lautaro Martínez, Romelu Lukaku and Joaquín Correa, they have arguably the best spread of attacking options in Europe, which has allowed head coach Simone Inzaghi to rest and rotate and change games with aggressive substitutions. They all offer something different: Dzeko is imperious in the air and with his back to goal; Martínez drifts wide and deep, always seeking pockets of space; Lukaku wants to turn and burst through channels; and Correa thrives on the break, using his quick feet to glide past opponents.

COUNTERATTACKING STYLE

As much as Inter's attack is key, their success in the Champions League has been largely down to the defence. Inzaghi is fiercely loyal to his 3-5-2 formation, which easily

and Sacchi's Milan



miserly defence can spring a surprise

shifts into a 5-3-2 when up against elite opponents like City. Inter have kept five clean sheets in six knockout matches, while in the second leg against AC Milan they restricted their rivals to a single shot on target. André Onana has been the goalkeeper of the tournament.

FLYING WINGBACKS AND CROSSES

So much of Inter's game runs through their two wingbacks, with Denzel Dumfries on the right and Federico Dimarco on the left. Dimarco is keener to work the ball through tight areas while Dumfries is a bulldozer, using his athleticism to confront opponents and challenge for aerial balls. Both are tasked with providing a constant supply of crosses. Indeed, no team have attempted more crosses in the Champions League this season.

INZAGHI'S CUP TRADITION

Inzaghi has proven himself to be something of a cup coach after winning four Italian Super Cups and two Coppa Italias in the past six seasons. His style of keeping it tight and capitalising on the big moments suits the knockout format, and this team has plenty of experience and nous. Dzeko, Lukaku, Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Matteo Darmian, Francesco Acerbi and Marcelo Brozovic are all 30 or older, and all eager to capitalise on what could be their last chance in this tournament.

Keeping it tight

André Onana has prevented more goals than any goalkeeper in the knockout stage of this season's Champions League

	Goals conceded	xGOT conceded	Goals prevented
A Onana (Inter)	9	16.8	7.8
T Courtois (Real)	11	16.9	5.9
S Mignolet (Bruges)	11	15.8	4.8
A Meret (Napoli)	8	11.8	3.8
D Costa (Porto)	7	10.7	3.7

Expected goals on target (xGOT) measures the quality of shots on target faced. Source: Opta

Gvardiol top of shopping list if Laporte leaves

Paul Hirst

Manchester City could make a move for Josko Gvardiol, the RB Leipzig centre back, if Pep Guardiola decides to shake up his defence this summer.

City's focus at present is on their Treble bid, but in a few weeks' time they will have to address the futures of certain players who may push to leave.

One of those could be Aymeric Laporte, who has started only six Premier League games since the World Cup because of the effective partnership between John Stones and Rúben Dias and the excellent form of Nathan Aké and Manuel Akanji.

A number of clubs, including Barcelona and Tottenham Hotspur, are monitoring Laporte's situation. The 28-year-old, who joined City from Athletic Bilbao for £57 million in January 2018, has two years left on his contract.

Should the Spain international seek to leave, City are likely to be in the market for a left-footed centre back and Gvardiol is on their shortlist, along with a few other defenders.

The 21-year-old Croatia international is regarded as one of the best prospects in Europe. He came through the ranks at Dinamo Zagreb before joining RB Leipzig in 2020 for about £14 million. Gvardiol has a release clause of €114 million (£98.9 million) in his contract, but The Times understands that Leipzig are willing to sell him for €100 million. That could still be too high for City, but the German club may be willing to lower their price even further because they have to sell three players to meet Financial Fair Play requirements.

Christopher Nkunku and Konrad Laimer are set to join Chelsea and Bayern Munich respectively in the summer, but another top name needs to leave and Leipzig could decide to cash in on Gvardiol if they receive a good offer.

Chelsea and Liverpool have also been linked with Gvardiol, who is contracted until 2027. The defender was on Manchester United's centre back shortlist last summer but they opted to sign Lisandro Martínez from Ajax instead.

City could also be in the market for a midfielder if — as expected — Ilkay Gundogan joins Barcelona on a free transfer when his contract expires. Paris Saint-Germain have revived their interest in another City midfielder, Bernardo Silva, but the club have not given up hope of trying to persuade the 28-year-old playmaker to stay.

City will win the Premier League this weekend if they beat Chelsea on Sunday or if Arsenal lose to Nottingham Forest tomorrow. City then face Manchester United in the FA Cup final on June 3 before taking on Inter Milan in Istanbul seven days later.

The best and more established players in Guardiola's squad stand to earn more than £2 million in bonuses if they become the first English team to do the Treble since Manchester United in 1999. Some elite players in the squad will earn £1 million bonuses for winning the Champions League, as well as another £750,000 for retaining the Premier League and a further £300,000 for lifting the FA Cup. Bonuses work on a sliding scale, so less established players will receive smaller amounts.

Gareth Southgate will allow City players Kyle Walker, John Stones, Phil Foden, Jack Grealish and Kalvin Phillips to be late joining his England squad before the European Championship qualifiers against Malta and North Macedonia in June.

CONTINUED FROM BACK

Arsenal get dog to boost morale

ground's resident cat, Bob, who was adopted when his local owner died, and the dog has a primary carer who looks after her.

Arteta is known to be especially keen on marginal gains, and ideas to motivate his team and stir emotions. They include taking a lightbulb into a team meeting to show how it is nothing unless connected to the mains because the team has no power unless they have a connection.

He also rigged up speakers playing *You'll Never Walk Alone* to prepare for what turned out to be a defeat at Anfield last season, and he drew a love heart and a brain on his whiteboard before a North London derby.

Ramsdale has doubled his wage to about £120,000 a week by signing a contract until 2027, with an option of a further season.

Arsenal plan contract talks with Martin Odegaard, who is also set to be offered a lucrative long-term deal.

The club have verbally agreed a deal with Bukayo Saka, who would become one of the club's top earners on more than £200,000 a week.

The club want to reward the core of the side who have mounted a title challenge this season.

Arteta has said that he is optimistic a deal can be struck with William Saliba, whose defensive importance has been emphasised during his recent absence with a back injury.

The Frenchman enters the final year of his contract this summer.



Arteta has used unusual methods to motivate

Barking Rovers: our dog team

GK Stray Given
RB Kyle Walkies
CB Spaniel Agger
CB John Terrier
LB Mutt Ritchie
LM Woof Zaha
CM Muzzle Izzet
CM Paul Pugba
RM Kenny Dogleash
CF Harry Canine
CF Emile Husky
Manager Mauricio Poochettino
Ground Kennelworth Road
Referee Craig Pawson

Sport



Newcastle thrash Brighton
Howe's men one victory from the Champions League after 4-1 win
Page 67



Nadal to retire in 2024
Spaniard will miss French Open and Wimbledon this year
Pages 64-65

DEAN MOUTHAROPOULOS/GETTY IMAGES



West Ham's famous win marred by trouble

Pablo Fornals celebrates with Declan Rice after Spaniard's goal seals place in Europa Conference League final, but crowd violence, inset, blights end of game in Alkmaar, with players rushing into stands to protect their families. Report, page 66

City legal fight with league

Club challenge 115 charges — and object to disciplinary chief for supporting Arsenal

Martyn Ziegler Chief Sports Reporter

Manchester City have lodged legal challenges against the Premier League's 115 charges for alleged rule breaches, disputing the legality of the investigation and the involvement of the barrister who is in charge of the disciplinary process.

The Times understands that City have raised the dispute in relation to recent changes in the Premier League's rules, arguing that they should not apply to investigations into alleged rule breaches before then.

The club are also understood to have challenged the involvement of Murray Rosen KC, the head of the Premier League's independent judicial panel, as the person who appoints the chairman of the disciplinary commission — under the rules he can appoint himself. Rosen's profile on his chambers' website states that he is a "member of the MCC and Arsenal FC".

The Premier League declined to comment. Manchester City did not respond when asked to comment.

The challenges are likely to cause a further delay to the outcome of the case and legal experts believe that it could be between two and four years before it is completed. Any legal dispute between the clubs and the league should initially go to an arbitration tribunal, and beyond that it could go to the High Court and Court of Appeal.

After the charges were announced in February, City made it clear that they would take every possible legal step to defend themselves and insisted they have "irrefutable evidence" to disprove the 115 alleged rule breaches over 14 seasons, from 2009-10 to the present campaign.

Although it is not certain which specific rules the legal challenge relates to, some changes were made in February 2020, while the Premier League's handbook has also changed in recent seasons.

If the charges are proved it could lead to a range of sanctions, including a deduction of points, with the ultimate punishment being expulsion from the Premier League.

The charges include: inaccurate financial reporting over nine seasons, from 2009-10 to 2017-18; not co-operating with an investigation and handing over documents as required over five seasons, from 2018-19 to 2022-23; not providing full details of the manager Roberto Mancini's pay over the four
Continued on page 68

Wasps drop to bottom tier

Alex Lowe Rugby Correspondent

Wasps have been demoted to the bottom of the English rugby pyramid after the RFU withdrew the club's licence to compete in the Championship next season.

The Times revealed last week that Wasps had been set a deadline of yesterday's RFU board meeting to fulfil eight key conditions, which included the appointment of a director of rugby, a squad recruitment plan and evidence that the rugby creditors had been paid.

Wasps were suspended from the Gallagher Premiership after going into administration in October with debts of £90 million and then relegated to the Championship as a punishment.

The same fate had befallen Worcester Warriors, whose new owners rejected a place in the second tier because they refused to comply with the RFU's
Continued on page 63

Arsenal get dog to raise morale

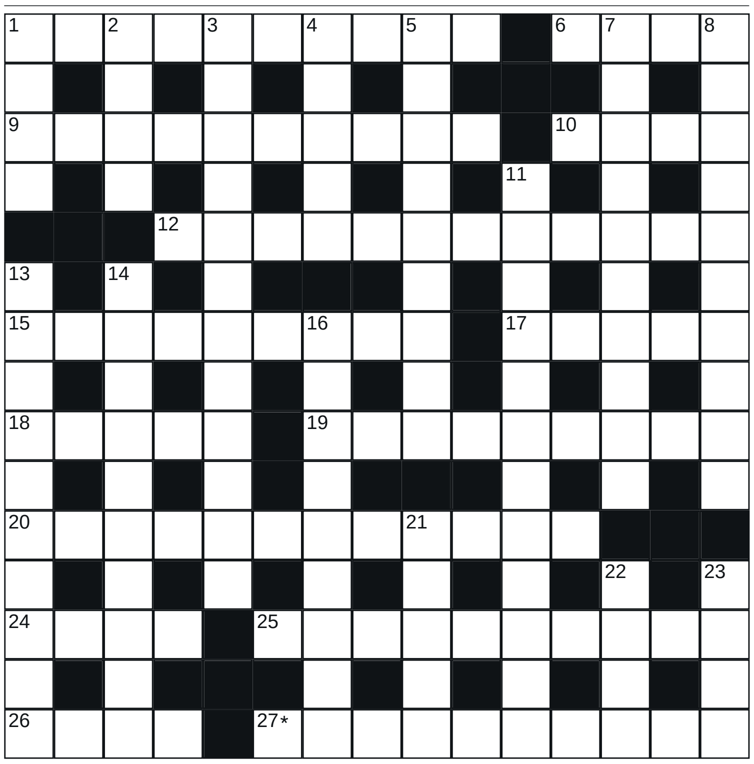
Gary Jacob

Mikel Arteta has made his latest signing to enhance the feelgood vibe at Arsenal — a chocolate Labrador.

The dog, who is affectionately called "Win", spends most days at the club's training ground at London Colney, Hertfordshire. Arteta was inspired to do the deal last month, hoping to exploit research that has shown petting a dog can be calming, improve mood and reduce stress levels. He also thinks she can enhance the spirit of togetherness that has carried Arsenal's title challenge this season.

Arteta walked her into the room to witness Aaron Ramsdale, his goalkeeper, signing a new long-term contract this week. Labradors are known to be sweet-natured, intelligent, enthusiastic and fun. She is not fazed by the training
Continued on page 69

Times Crossword 28,607



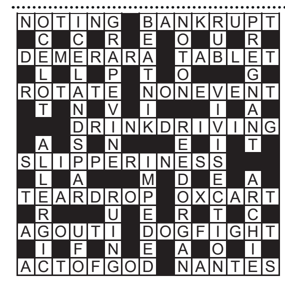
ACROSS

1 Cleric keeps company with shrewd colleague (10)
6 Part company with surgery led by GP? (4)
9 Liable to produce spoilers maybe from popular record about film (10)
10 Words expressed with venom (4)
12 Ill-timed, immoderate needs succeeded for king (12)
15 Walk then run, being in a frenzied state (5,4)
17 Test case for tribunal involves revolutionary aspect (5)
18 Large plant finishes off reactor to allow extra production (5)
19 Children's home forever faced by endless changes (9)
20 Male characters in *The Devils* spread confusion (12)
24 Close listener follows note (4)
25 Writer set out to capture live animal (10)
26 Square divisible by two (4)
27 Poll's official objective hedged by expressions of doubt (10)

DOWN

1 Passionate, vocal woman who leads uprising (4)
2 Start to cause trouble about final piece of work (4)
3 Left with no illusions after he sent candid snaps (12)
4 Cycling bore gets fit (5)
5 Fail to rise to the occasion when one should? (9)
7 Leaders of right-wing establishment host US counterpart (10)
8 Having prominent corporation with pounds in bank misrepresented (10)
11 A banal tune — it swings like *The Impossible Dream*? (12)
13 Base of lower lip harbours what appears to be rash (10)
14 Swims at speed in shallow area with access to facilities (5,5)
16 Pay for issue brought up previously (2,3,4)
21 What features in chironomid genetically? (5)
22 Small drop in attendance initially disrupting teacher's course (4)
23 Staunch supporter of green growth? (4)

Yesterday's solution 28,606



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THE TIMES

Bricks&Mortar



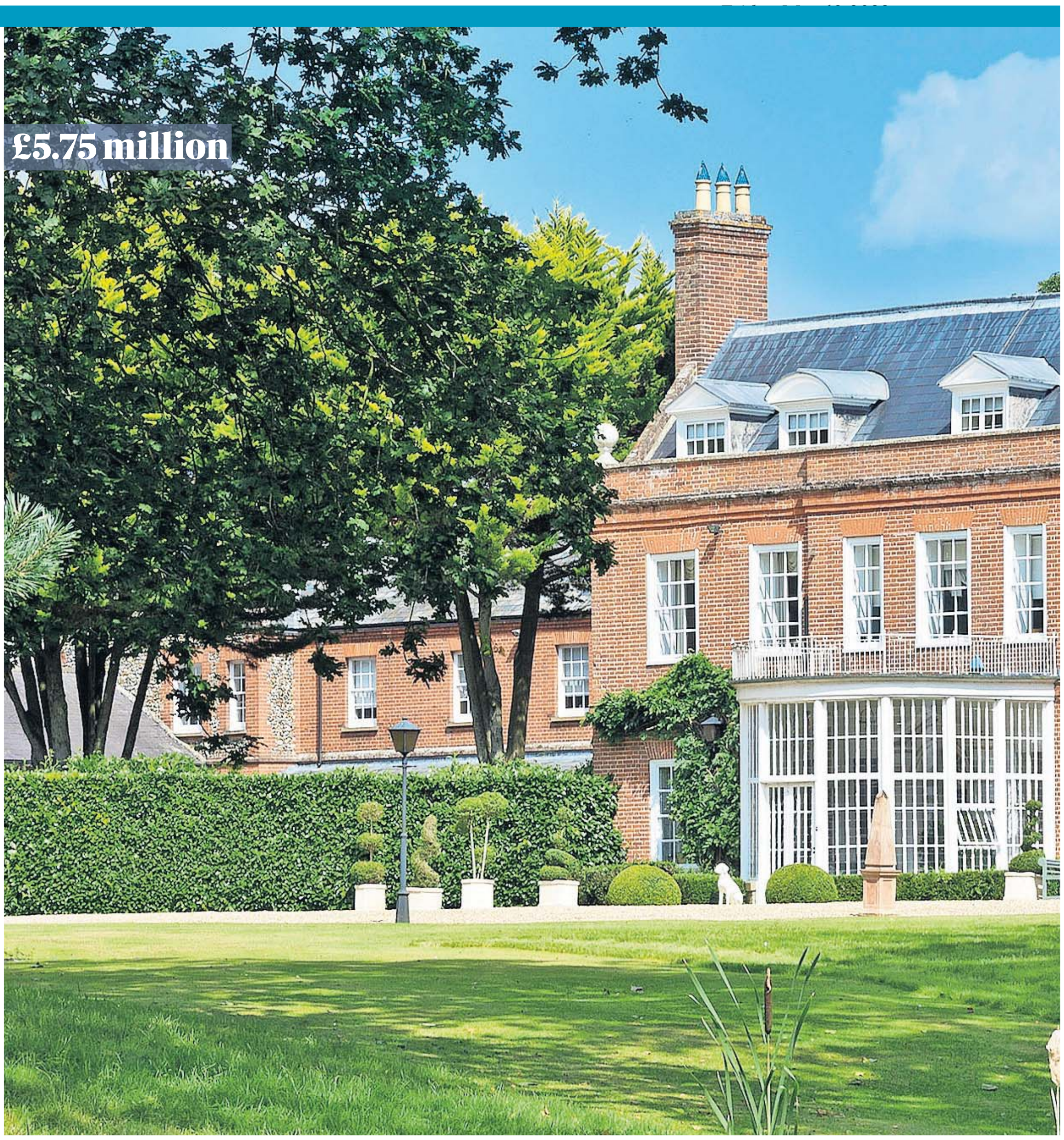
INSIDE
10-page guide to retirement living

Prime proposition

WHY THE WEALTHY STILL WANT A COUNTRY HOUSE page 6

Home of the week

With the oldest oak tree in England and ties to the Titanic, this three-storey sprawl has stories to tell, says David Byers



In April 1912 Tyrell William Cavendish, 36, and his wife, Julia, 25, an American, left Thurston House, the magnificent grade II listed country home they had just bought near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, and boarded RMS Titanic.

Tyrell, a wealthy businessman, Julia and their 26-year-old maid Nellie Barber were heading to New York to see Julia's father, Henry Siegel, a department store magnate. Tyrell was embarking on a political career — he had ambitions to become the MP for Bury St Edmunds — and was seeking Siegel's patronage.

Tyrell would never again see their beautiful home. He was among the more than 1,500 who perished on the ship. Julia and Nellie survived after being lowered into lifeboats. Of their final seconds together, she wrote: "My husband kissed me and put me into a boat in which were 23 women. He told me to go and that he would stay on the ship with the other men. They were happy to see us lowered away in the boats and kept telling us they would be all right as the ship could not sink."

Amid the tragedy, however, there was a stroke of good fortune: the couple had left their children Henry, three, and Geoffrey, one, in Suffolk at the last minute because Geoffrey was unwell.

Julia sold Thurston House, in the village of Thurston, six miles east of Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk. In memory of her husband she built a village hall, which stands today.

The traumatic and brief experience of the Cavendishes as owners of Thurston House sits in stark contrast to that of the present owners of the country home, which dates from 1300, and has what is reputed to be the oldest oak tree in England at 1,200 years.

Christine and Andrew Spencer, the retired owners of several BMW dealerships, are moving out after living happily there for 26 years while bringing up two now-grown-up children.

The property sits in 34 acres made up of immaculate gardens, pasture and woodland, and fenced paddocks, along with a manège and pony stables. Other outbuildings include a barn, a three-car garage and a workshop, above which is a two-bedroom coach-house flat.

Inside the house are eight bedrooms, four attic rooms, a reception room, a drawing room, a cinema room, a conservatory, a cellar, a study and six bathrooms.

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There is a covered swimming pool area in the corner of the garden, which, according to the estate agency Knight Frank, offers "a wonderful summer entertaining spot" with a terrace for outdoor dining. There is also a gym in this complex.

The Spencers' outlay on the property includes one staff gardener, who comes in every day, and a contractor who does the "heavy" work such as tree pruning.

"But it's not the maintenance of the land that worries me, it's more the domestic side — looking after a massive property," Christine says. "We have a home in Barbados; we spend four to five months of the year there. With no one in the house we have to have a house sitter, and it gets complicated. It's time to downsize."

Thurston House is on the market for £5.75 million with Knight Frank



IP31 The postcode in numbers

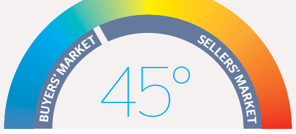
In this part of Suffolk, 45% of properties for sale are under offer, falling to 20% of those costing £1 million or more

▼ 23% Decrease in buyer demand in the past year

£395,228 is the average house price

TAKING THE TEMPERATURE
SELLERS' MARKET

The hotter the market, the quicker and easier it should be to sell a home



Source: Propcast and Rightmove

What £3 million buys you in …

Compiled by Victoria Brzezinski
@vbrzezin

Buckinghamshire



Grade II listed Watercroft offers an abundance of Georgian charm within strolling distance of four pubs and a deli. Three miles from Beaconsfield, the 8,000 sq ft property stands in the centre of Penn, a pretty village perched on a ridge of the Chiltern Hills, and has fabulous period details throughout. There are six bedrooms, three reception rooms and five bathrooms, as well as a one-bedroom detached coach house; the grounds extend to more than four acres. The kitchen/breakfast room has Shaker-style cabinetry, a gas-fired Aga and a walk-in refrigerated larder. There is a separate prep kitchen/utility room and an office.

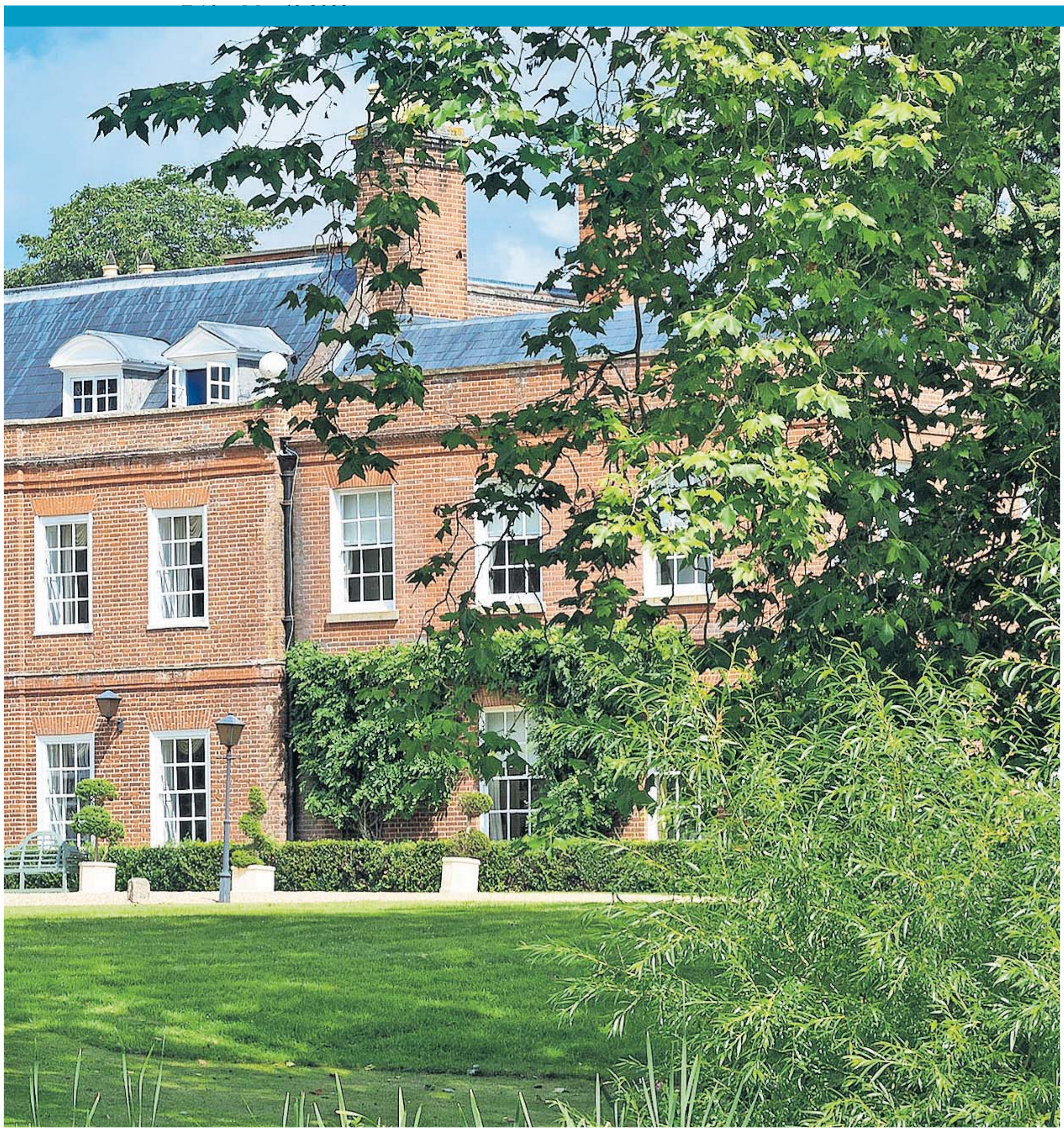
EPC E (potential C) — on a scale of A (best) to G (worst)
Upside The bucolic surroundings.
Downside A lot of house to manage.
Contact savills.com

London W1



Illustrious former residents of Bryanston Square — terraces surrounding a private garden between Hyde Park and Regent's Park — include British politicians, an Ottoman diplomat and Wallis Simpson, the American socialite and divorcee for whom Edward VIII abandoned the throne. This 1,720 sq ft three-bedroom lateral apartment on the first floor of Ellerton House has a single reception room, a kitchen, hallway and lavatory. Each bedroom has an en suite bathroom or shower room. You will need to splash out £13,833 a year on the service charge, which covers a 24-hour concierge service, security with CCTV coverage and underground parking.

EPC E (C)
Upside Share of freehold.
Downside A fee is payable for use of the gardens.
Contact harrodsestates.com







Brief encounter

Ask the expert

Q My student daughter and three friends signed an 18-month rental agreement for a house. We guaranteed the tenancy. If her pals don't return to university in September, will I be liable for their rent?

A Where two or more tenants sign a tenancy agreement they may be liable to pay the rent and perform other tenancy conditions, either jointly or severally. Most modern tenancy agreements explicitly say tenants are joint tenants. And even if the agreement is silent, a joint tenancy is invariably presumed. The effect of joint liability is that all tenants are responsible for meeting the entirety of the obligations in the agreement rather than just their share of them. Landlords may therefore claim all the rent for the property from any individual. They can also sue any of them for damage to the property even if they did not cause it. The only remedy for tenants called on to pay the whole of the rent is that they are entitled to a contribution from the other joint tenants.

There are risks for landlords too. If they reach private agreements to let some joint tenants off their rent, this can sometimes be treated as a legal release of the same obligations of the remaining tenants. If landlords decide to accept part of the rent from any one tenant, they should make it clear they are not waiving the tenants' joint rental obligations.

Guarantors will also normally have to underwrite the whole rent, although it is open to them to limit their liability to, say, a third or a quarter of the total liabilities under the tenancy. Guarantors will also have the legal right to a contribution from the joint tenants who haven't paid.

If her friends don't come back in September, your daughter is therefore likely to have to pay all the rent and you are legally liable to guarantee the shortfall. But if you can find her joint tenants you can claim the money back.

Mark Loveday is a barrister with Tanfield Chambers. Email questions to brief. encounter@thetimes.co.uk



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mansionglobal.com/london

Surrey

You would be forgiven for thinking that this property in the suburban village of Oxshott was more than 100 years old. With its large windows, column-fronted porch and pitched roof it looks Victorian or Edwardian. However, it was built a couple of years ago by Meadway Homes. Arranged over basement, ground, first and second floors, the house has five bedrooms and five bathrooms, a cinema room, a games room with a bar, a sauna and a double garage. Its landscaped gardens feature a large patio and a covered barbecue area with a built-in fridge and an open fire.

EPC B (B)
Upside Additional parking in the driveway.
Downside Pastiche architecture not to everyone's taste.
Contact knightfrank.co.uk



Mallorca

Cala Deia is a small cove beach below the coastal village of Deia, nestled in the Tramuntana mountains in the northwest of Mallorca. The town is known for its famous residents, from the writers Robert Graves and Anais Nin to, more recently, Richard Branson and Mick Jagger. Overlooking the beach and its turquoise waters is this detached stone house with classic Mallorca architecture but strikingly modern interiors. The property has four bedrooms, each with an en suite bathroom, as well as a gym and two large terraces. Central heating, air-conditioning units and indoor and outdoor swimming pools make it enjoyable year-round.

Upside Stunning views of the beach.
Downside Lots of marble in the bathrooms.
Contact charlesmarlow.com



Moving stories

Your tales from up and down the property ladder

During Covid we tried to escape London — but then we fell in love with it again

When the Covid pandemic hit, we decided to leave north London and head for the hills. The Malvern Hills, to be precise [writes Graham Antony, an interior designer].

My partner is from Asia and my family were born and raised in London, but my relatives had gravitated away from the city to the countryside of the Midlands and Wales, so Malvern seemed to be a good place for us.

At the time travel was discouraged unless for business and for buying property, so we based ourselves in an almost empty hotel as we toured our chosen area. We were soon to find out we were not alone in having this idea. It became clear that the local estate agents were overwhelmed with the amount of outside interest. Our emails and calls were left unanswered and agents' offices were full of stressed retired staff who had been recruited to help field the inquiries.

When we eventually started seeing properties, the agents had arranged back-to-back viewings with competing city-dwellers and offers were made in days. The panic reminded me of the late 1980s when I bought my first London flat. It was obvious that the estate agents had never experienced similar demand, but they soon learnt to start using terms like "guided at" and that dreaded phrase "best and final offers" in their calls.

We were beaten to several houses and finally gave up when we were told that a property we had set our hearts on, originally "guided at offers over £500,000", was now only accepting offers over £800,000. We returned to London deflated, knowing it was time to rethink our strategy.

We had always loved living in Crouch End, which is why we had been there for 17 years. However, our view of the area changed with the onset of the pandemic. The lovely restaurants and cafés had been closed, so everyone had overspilt into the once tranquil parks. Many were using this green space as their new workplace, shouting on Zoom calls. The streets, meanwhile, were full of joggers.



Graham Antony wanted to move to the countryside during the pandemic

For this reason we had begun driving further into town for walks, into the deserted streets of Mayfair. It was eerily quiet but wonderfully peaceful — and it made us fall in love with the city all over again. It was during those walks that we decided to investigate the idea of a home in central London instead. We would go further in rather than move out.

When we made inquiries, it couldn't have been more different from our experience in the Malvern Hills. The city was, it was immediately obvious, going through a lean patch. The foreign buyers were trapped in their own countries due to lockdowns and the prices were beginning to reflect that. The west London estate agents were far more professional and even chauffeured us around between viewings. It wasn't long before we found a small one-bedroom that was being sold through probate. It needed a full refurbishment, but that didn't faze us as we had done this before. Considering the condition of the property, we made a fair opening offer of about 8 per cent below asking price and waited for a response.

We waited a month to hear back, because it turned out the old lady who had lived in the flat had bequeathed the proceeds to five different charities, which all had to be consulted before agreeing a sale, but, in the end, our first offer was accepted. We were delighted and it felt good that our money was going to good causes. We had secured an apartment close to Hyde Park for two thirds of the price of our two-bedroom flat in Crouch End. Admittedly the flat was half the size, but living here is all about being outside, enjoying all the city has to offer.

Now we can go out to the theatre, restaurants and bars without using the night bus or Tube. We can visit the empty morning streets of Soho or the galleries before the crowds swarm in. There's no need for public transport as we can walk everywhere. We have both the excitement of the city and the peace of the park on our doorstep.

Thanks to the position of our new home (the estate is hidden behind streets of Georgian houses) we have found the tranquillity we were searching for. We now wake to church bells and birdsong instead of traffic.

I think we all went a little crazy being cooped up during the lockdowns, which must have affected the decisions we were making back then.

Now, with hindsight, we realise we didn't need to escape the city, we needed to fully embrace it.

Have your say
Would you like to share your moving story? Email **carol.lewis@thetimes.co.uk**





LIFE IN THE ROUND

This grand modernist Round House has been the nerve centre of a digital technology empire, a record label and a beloved family home. Now it's yours to experience too

BY *Aleks Cvetkovic*

Osman Kent has lived a colourful life, centred around his passions for technology and music. He founded 3Dlabs, the pioneering tech company that's credited with developing the foundations of modern computer graphics, and has helmed his own record label too.

When, in 1997, he discovered a Grade II* listed property in Surrey that would give him space to run his business from home, record music and reflect his love of modernist architecture, he knew he had to buy it. "One morning, my wife passed me a property advert and said, 'this is your house'," says Osman.

She was right. St Ann's Court, a handsome 6,500 sq ft, six bedroom Round House, was designed in 1936 by Australian architect Sir Raymond McGrath. An Elizabethan manor used to stand on the same site, hence the name, but was demolished to make space for the present building. Formerly owned by Phil Manzanera of Roxy Music, the property also features a 4,600 sq ft coach house in which you'll find a state-of-the-art music studio installed by Manzanera and developed by Osman.

Several notable artists have recorded here, including Roxy Music and Paul Weller, and the property has previously been rented by musicians who needed a place to write and record new work. "Having all the space a large family needs, but being just 10 or 20 yards away from a separate space for creative endeavours, is a godsend," Osman adds.

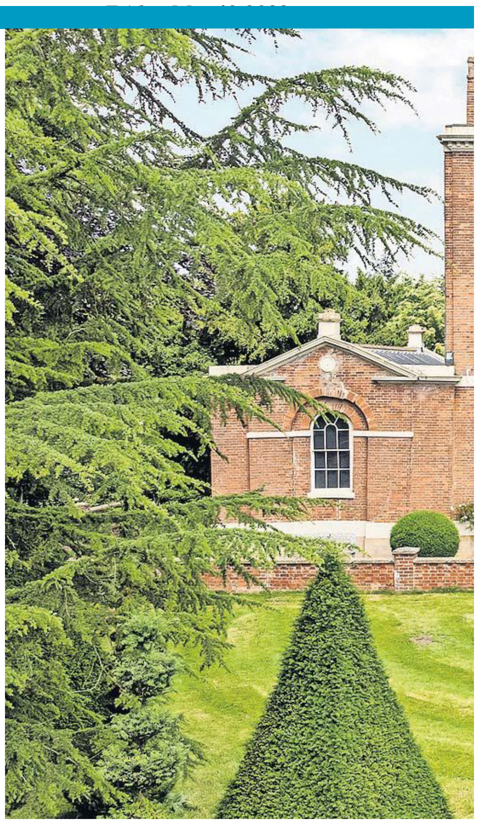
Now, the place could be yours - for a time, at least. St Ann's Court is available to rent and is ideally suited to creatives or businesspeople in need of a base from which to focus. "Knight Frank introduced us to the Hollywood star who lived here throughout 2021," Osman reflects, "and we bought the house through Knight Frank in 1997."

While musicians will be drawn to the recording studio, St Ann's Court could equally suit a writer, painter or an entrepreneur and their family - like Osman, his wife and children - who want a personal headquarters. "It's been an extraordinary home to raise our family," says Osman. "This place has great creative energy."

St Ann's Court is available to rent on a short or long-term basis. Contact Ross Harvey for more information, ross.harvey@knightfrank.com / +44 (0) 1344 299390. Or contact us for all your property needs.



Gosford Pines, a Georgian house in Ottery St Mary, east Devon, is on the market for £1.35 million through Strutt & Parker





A six-bedroom house in Surrey is on sale for £2.7 million via Hamptons

Rural recovery

COVER STORY

Wet spring weather may have dampened the countryside market, but wealthy buyers are emerging once more, says Victoria Brzezinski

With the race for space over and property professionals mulling the death of the country market, it seems an odd time to launch an estate agency specialising in rural homes.

Yet this is exactly what Lindsay Cuthill, a former Savills country house veteran, has done by launching Blue Book, a boutique estate agency selling rural homes ranging from £1 million to £15 million.

Given that we reached "peak country" in 2020 — the only year on record when rural homes were more likely to sell above their asking price than the wider market — you might think that Cuthill has missed the boat.

However, it turns out to be a canny move given that wealthy buyers are still on the hunt for a rural idyll. Cuthill is known as "the Country House Specialist" on Instagram, and his inbox has been pinging with direct messages from the rich and famous. He is already celebrating his first exchange (a joint listing with Savills), on an 18th-century gothic revival pile in the Cotswolds for the full £6 million asking price.

Cuthill says: "It appeared to potential buyers that there wasn't much going on [in the market]. I think there is — but it's a measured supply. The delay was clearly this wet, cold, damp spring. All agents seemed to be delaying their launches, or couldn't get the bloody photographs done. It is only last week that the phones have started ringing."



Above: Homestall Manor near East Grinstead, West Sussex, is on sale for £10 million with Savills

Other estate agencies also report fresh activity. Strutt & Parker says it has experienced a 50 per cent increase in buyers looking for houses priced at more than £2.5 million in the last week, while viewing numbers are up 65 per cent.

It is a similar story at Savills, which reports that the number of new buyers who registered in April for £2.5 million-plus homes was up 30 per cent compared with pre-pandemic levels (April 2019), while the number of new buyers looking for properties costing £5 million or more is up by 55 per cent.



"Demand has held up better for country homes," says Aneisha Beveridge, head of research at Hamptons. "This is amplified by the change in the number of homes available to buy. While there are 10 per cent more homes available in the country than in April 2019, city stock levels are up 37 per cent. Last month 23 per of country homes sold above their asking price, down from a peak of 33 per cent in April 2022. While both markets have cooled over the last year, the drop-off in buyers paying over the asking price has been less in rural markets."



Left: Lindsay Cuthill. Above and on the cover: a six-bedroom home in Bromley is on sale for £4.25 million via Hamptons

The prime country house market is more affected by market sentiment and the stock market than the cost of living crisis — the vast majority (77 per cent) of country buyers spending £5 million or more bought in cash last year, according to Knight Frank.

After three years with a shortage of stock at the top end of the rural market, Oliver Custance Baker, the head of Strutt's country house department, says that in the past fortnight there have been "some really high-value sales agreed".

However, Edward Heaton, the founder of the buying agency Heaton & Partners, describes the market atmosphere as "schizophrenic" — examples of "truly extraordinary prices" are contrasting with "seemingly good quality houses unable to find a sniff of a buyer".

Anything in need of TLC is likely to linger — with builders and materials expensive and in short supply — while pristine homes at the right price are selling fast. Michelle Hendrie, of the West Sussex buying agency Property Acquisitions, says a freshly refurbished house in a pretty village received five offers over the asking price shortly after its launch, while another renovated three-bedroom detached cottage had 30 viewings booked over four days of its launch this month: within 72 hours it received five offers at the guide price.

There are some chunky estates hitting the market — Strutt & Parker has recently launched Linton Park in Kent for £32 million — as farmers are being forced to sell due to the winding down of EU subsidies. Savills recorded 16,700 acres of farmland launching across Great Britain in the first quarter of this year — the highest figure since 2016 — and 30 per cent more than during the same period last year.



Cressy Hall near Spalding, Lincolnshire, is on sale for £1.85 million with Savills



Linton Park in rural Kent is on sale for £32 million with Strutt & Parker

"We're seeing record prices paid for agricultural land, so if you were thinking of selling in the next few years, now's a good time because prices are as high as they've been," says Mark Lawson, a partner at the Buying Solution, Knight Frank's buying agency.

This is driven by a huge interest in rewilding and biodiversity "not just for investors, but also people wanting to buy a lovely house and do their bit," according to Jess Simpson, the founder of Jess Simpson Property Search. "I've just had the busiest three months in a first quarter that I've ever seen — £110 million worth of transactions across ten deals, nearly all off-market," she says.

About twothirds of Lawson's clients are UK nationals. "It's going to be a late market and so everything's concertinaed into a slightly shorter time frame," he says, noting that buyers are coming to him with bigger budgets. Before Covid, his typical buyer would have probably had £4 million to £6 million to spend. Now that's closer to £10 million, although this reflects that prices have gone up 30 per cent in some areas.

Of the nearly 200 houses listed for sale on Rightmove for £5 million and over within a 40-mile radius of the Cotswolds, about one in five have been reduced in price. Of the more than 70 properties between £2 million and £3 million within the same radius, almost one in four have been reduced — demonstrating the resilience of the top end of the market.

And what do these wealthy buyers want? The post-pandemic wish list is all about the pooch, the pub and privacy. "Buyers still want land for peace and quiet. I have noticed that without question, every single person I talk to, whether they've got £2 million or £20 million, wants to be within walking distance of a nice pub. The push is also not to get quite so far from your place of work," Lawson says.

From patches of woodland for *shinrin-yoku* (Japanese "forest bathing") to garden ice baths, "the whole wellness thing is definitely a trend," according to Phillippa Dalby-Welsh of Savills's country department. "Whether that's wild swimming or gyms and spa areas; bringing back to life vegetable gardens that have gone to rack and ruin or keeping bees." As is pampering your furry friends: "We've definitely seen more and more boot rooms-cum-glorified dog kennels with dog showers."

Meanwhile, Simpson notes that value-conscious buyers are swerving the inflated prices of the Cotswolds in favour of new spots such as Hungerford, Marlborough and Wiltshire. "Cheltenham and Gloucester are becoming more popular. An hour and a half out of London is still the sweet spot, close to a mainline station."

Sensible pricing is still key if you want to sell speedily — buyers are very critical, according to Tom Hudson, the head of estates at buying agency Middleton Advisors. "It is not so much about available funds, it is more about not wanting to overspend or bid in a vacuum."

Tom Shuttleworth, of Strutt & Parker's country house department, advises sellers that "if viewings are drying up, it's likely it's time to revise your price. It's better to be ahead of the game rather than chase a softening market. A 10 per cent minimum decrease can produce excellent results. I just relaunched a house in Surrey to the market with a revised price of £2.2 million, and with almost 50 viewings in the diary it went under offer after just a couple of days."

Savvy spender

Cool beans: the best coffee machines to buy now



Your weekly guide to living well for less
Share your tips
victoria.brzezinski@the-times.co.uk

For me, having an excellent cup of coffee upon rising is non-negotiable — it brings me daily joy. If you feel the same way about your morning caffeine fix (and enjoy learning the craft of latte art) then splurging on a proper barista machine is a no-brainer.

Which? has calculated how long it would take to recoup the investment in a coffee machine based on drinking two espressos daily over five years.

A traditional espresso machine (the kind that uses ground beans) is the cheapest option, at a total cost of £773, followed by the bean-to-cup machine at £1,033 and a coffee pod machine at £1,153. All cheap when compared with buying a takeaway espresso (estimated at £1.95) twice a day — which would cost £7,118 over the five-year period.

The Which? Best Buy-winning espresso machine used in these tests was Beko's CEP5152B (£68, very.co.uk), the bean-to-cup machine was Melitta's Barista TS Smart F850-102 (£739, hartsofstur.com) and the pod machine was A Modo Mio Voicy from Lavazza (£137, amazon.co.uk).

I asked fellow coffee enthusiasts about their favourite machines and Sage, which tops the Which? charts as the best brand of coffee maker, came first. Next on the Which? list are Jura and Gaggia, which scooped 86 and 85 per cent customer satisfaction scores respectively, although it reports both brands were among those most prone to developing to faults.

I'm not a fan of pod machines such as those by Nespresso. I know they are super-convenient but I'm not crazy about the taste nor the pod waste. I'm definitely team Sage — I own Sage's Barista Express (£519, johnlewis.com).

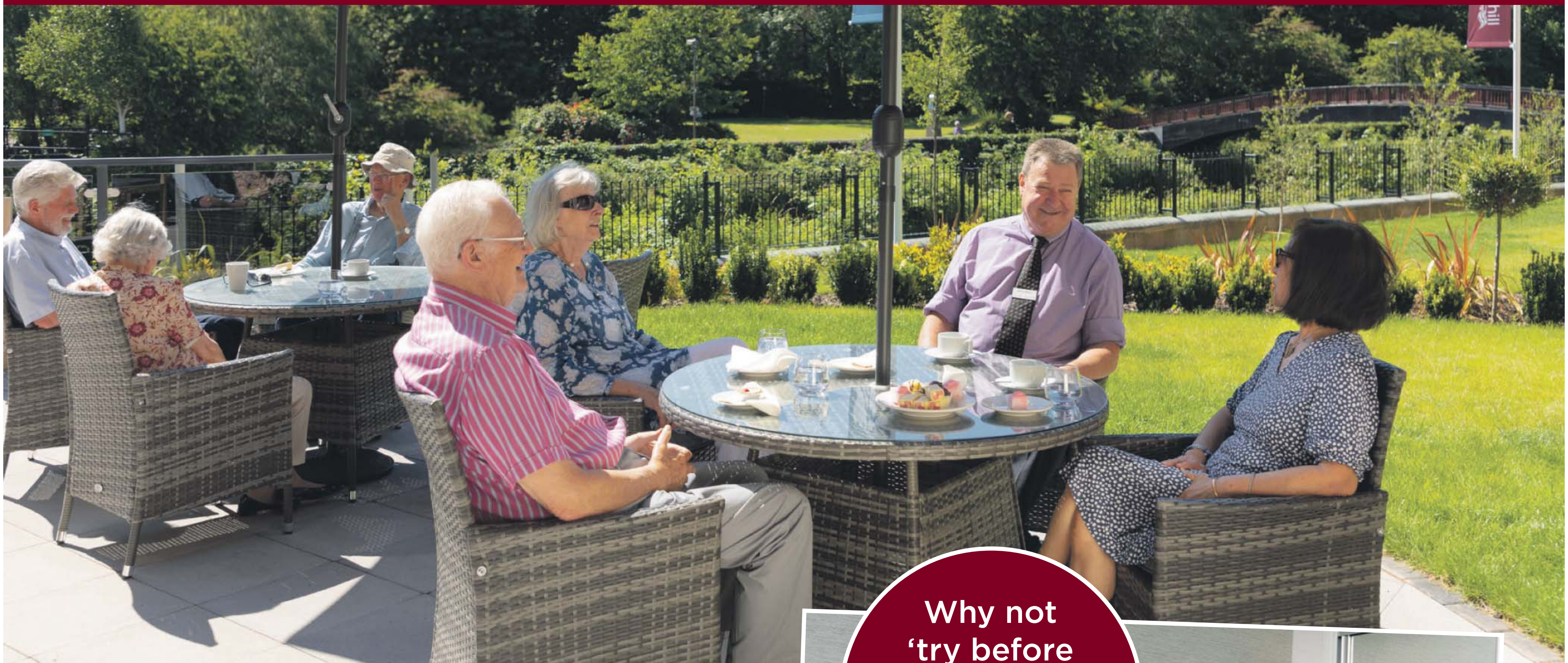
Your coffee is only ever going to be as good as your beans. I recommend Monsoon Estates craft coffee roastery for brilliant beans (from £6 for 227g, monsoonestates.co.uk). I also love coffee beans from Assembly Coffee in south London and Rounton Coffee Store in Northallerton, North Yorkshire.

Victoria Brzezinski

> Splurging on a proper barista machine is a no-brainer



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COMING SOON - Cambs Great Shelford; **Cheshire** Handforth; **Devon** Barnstaple, Honiton, Totnes; **Essex** Saffron Walden; **Hants** Drayton, Fareham; **Kent** Gravesend, Tenterden, Staplehurst, Westwood Cross; **Northants** Brackley; **Notts** Beeston; **Oxfordshire** Banbury, Bicester, Didcot; **Somerset** Wells; **Surrey** Cranleigh; **West Midlands** King's Heath; **Wirral** West Kirby; **Worcestershire** Evesham.

AWAITING PLANNING - Berks Hungerford; **Bristol** Staple Hill; **Bucks** Newport Pagnell; **Cheshire** Penketh, Wilmslow; **Devon** Exmouth; **Dorset** Christchurch; **Essex** Old Harlow; **Hants** Romsey; **Herts** Hertford; **Kent** Larkfield, Tonbridge; **Sussex** Bexhill-on-Sea, Southwater; **West Midlands** Kingswinford; **Yorkshire** Wigginton.

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Bricks&Mortar

Retirement special

A mix of lighting types adds brightness that helps to keep residents more focused and alert

Designed for dementia

Furniture, colours, lighting and blackout blinds can all help those with the syndrome, says Hugh Graham

If you get dementia, which statistically is increasingly likely — one in three born in Britain this year will develop it in their lifetime, according to Alzheimer's Research UK — you'd better hope you end up living in Loveday Abbey Road, a specialist care home in St John's Wood, northwest London.

Opened in March, this Victorian mansion has been rebuilt and redesigned to make life easy for those living with dementia — in this case, 26 residents. Its interiors have been sense-checked by Stirling University, which wrote the book on dementia design; it offers a course on the subject at its Dementia Services Development Centre. Paul Blenkinsop, Loveday's property director, took the course and took me on a tour of Abbey Road to show me what a state-of-the-art dementia care home looks like. Be warned: fees start at £3,000 a week, but many of these design principles can be applied at home.



Tonal contrast is measured when choosing decor

Lighting

Many people with dementia experience sundowning — a sense of confusion, aggression and agitation as the sun goes down. This can leave them wide awake at night and sleepy during the day. It is thought that light therapy can help to alleviate this. At Loveday Abbey Road they use a Lutron Dali lighting system to regulate people's circadian rhythm: in all the bedrooms and communal areas at 6am a warm yellow light set to 2,700 kelvins comes on; by midday the light ramps up to a cool blue at 5,000 kelvins; it falls back to 2,700 by 9pm.

Research shows that lack of sleep worsens memory, so bedrooms have automated blackout blinds that ensure bedrooms are dark at night. A light over the bathroom door stays on at 1 per cent all night to act as a nocturnal signpost. If a resident rises to use the bathroom, a sensor turns on the lights in the bedroom and bathroom to a 20 per cent brightness.

Rooms are decorated with a mixture of pendants, table lamps, recessed lights and coffered ceiling LEDs. All the layers add brightness — the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers recommends you maximise artificial light when designing for dementia, Blenkinsop says. So lux levels, which measure how bright a surface will be, are 700-1,000, rather than the 100-200 found in some retirement homes. This allows residents to more easily focus on tasks.



Beds have clear sightlines to the bathroom

Colour codes

Changes in perception and visual confusion are hallmarks of dementia. "Trying to make their environment as clear as possible is a big part in improving somebody's life," Blenkinsop says. One design fundamental is tonal contrast: ensuring the right degree of contrast between a floor and a wall, so residents can tell where one ends and another one begins.

When differentiating the two surfaces, aim for at least a 30 per cent difference in tonal shade. The same goes for a lavatory against a bathroom floor, to delineate the seat for residents. On the floors the less tonal contrast the better: if you're walking from a vinyl floor in the bedroom to a porcelain tile in the bathroom, or putting a rug on top of a carpet, the difference in shade should be no more than 10 per cent.

James Cook, managing director at Loveday, recalls a swirly patterned carpet at their first residence in Chelsea that a resident refused to step over.

> **The art is of local scenes to jog memory or is abstract. Strange faces in portraits can be confusing**

When choosing decor, tonal contrast is measured in light reflectance value (LRV). Not every interiors brand provides this, but every paint has an LRV that can be looked up on e-paint.co.uk; Duraflor and Forbo Flooring provide LRV.

The old thinking in dementia design emphasised sharply contrasting colours. Many dementia wards of yore use primary colours and red loo seats. New research shows it's the tonal contrast that's important, so, for example, different shades of brown can do the trick. Colour can be a useful general signpost: every bathroom has a door that's a specific shade of grey, to remind residents there's a lavatory behind it.

Bedrooms and bathrooms

There should always be a clear sightline from the bed to the lavatory: if residents wake up in the night and can't see the

Continued on page 10 ▶

Continued from page 9

lavatory, they are more likely to become disorientated and suffer an accident. The bathrooms at Loveday Abbey Road use old-fashioned separate hot and cold taps; often people with dementia can remember when taps were separate, but would be confused by a mixer. The taps are a cross shape as they are the easiest to turn. Every shower and tap has a thermostatic mixing valve that restricts the water temperature.

Mirrors are hidden inside cabinets or removed, as people with dementia can be frightened by the stranger in the mirror.

To identify their bedroom, in addition to a room number, there are plans to adorn the doors with artworks created by the resident, or a piece of art from home that resonates with them.

The dining room

People with dementia sometimes forget to eat. The dining room is attached to an open kitchen, so that residents can talk to the chefs and smell the food being prepared whetting their appetite. And if 26 people are dining together at the same time, the noise and chaos can discourage eating. So the dining room has smaller tables with acoustic padding on the ceiling to deaden the noise; some tables can be moved to lounges.

Sturdy dining tables by SNO Furniture are square with four legs, rather than circular with a central pedestal, as the latter can fall over if residents lean on them to stand up. The dining chairs are by Shackletons, which specialises in furniture for the elderly; the chairs' two-tone fabrics delineate what is the back and what is the front.

Artwork

Art comprises streetscapes or landscapes that show local familiar scenes to jog memory, because 80 per cent of the residents are from the immediate area. Paintings don't have glass on them as reflections and shadows may alarm residents. The other art is abstract. Portraits are discouraged, as strange faces could be confusing.

Communal areas

In communal areas and corridors doors are kept open and recessed into walls so residents don't feel restricted and can wander freely. When doors to activity rooms are closed, glazed panels beside them allow residents to see what's going on inside, so they don't feel intimidated by a closed door.

The spa in the basement has an Arjo Wellness Nordic Relax Chair that is designed to soothe people with dementia: it reclines, vibrates and massages while playing soothing music.

Instead of one big noisy lounge, there are six smaller lounges, so if one person is being disruptive, residents can retreat to a quiet space.

The garden

To help with navigation, the sensory garden has a circular path with no dead ends and with distinctive focal points (a water feature, a statue). Scents such as jasmine, lavender and chocolate cosmos evoke memories and soothe the senses. Plants are on raised beds so that people in wheelchairs can touch them. None of the plants is poisonous.

Bright and boldly coloured flowers — red hot pokers, crocosmia — help the visually impaired. Plants are chosen to emphasise seasonal change so residents know what time of year it is. Benches and seats are dotted everywhere so residents can go at their own pace. "We want people to live as free a life as possible," Blenkinsop says.

lovedayandco.com

Dive into your future

Active retired people are shunning the pipe and slippers in favour of padel and swimming at these European hotspots. By Cathy Hawker

It is estimated that 24 per cent of the population in the UK will be over 65 by 2043, compared with 19 per cent in 2019. And while the government is urging over-55s back to work, research from the insurance company Aviva shows that 44 per cent of 55 to 64-year-olds plan to move into semi-retirement before they hit retirement age.

Pipe and slippers at the ready? No. This generation is keener to pull on the lycra and hike, cycle, sail or surf. These are the places to buy overseas in which they can do just that.

Portugal

"In Europe generally visas are offered to non-EU citizens allowing temporary or permanent residency for pensioners, retirees and those with passive income," says Joana Mendonça, the head of legal at Global Citizen Solutions, a boutique investment migration consultancy. "In Portugal a D7 visa — a long-stay visa allowing non-EU citizens to live in Portugal for two years, renewable for a further three — is an excellent option for retired people."



Good weather, golf courses galore, sandy beaches and an affordable lifestyle: Portugal has always had the attributes that appeal to the retired, but since 2009 its non-habitual resident (NHR) programme has provided further incentive to buy there. Available to foreign nationals relocating to Portugal and valid for ten years, the tax scheme offers benefits that include income tax at 20 per cent, no inheritance tax on assets outside of Portugal and tax on foreign pension income at 10 per cent.

"We've seen the number of people considering a permanent move to Portugal rise dramatically because of the NHR — up 50 to 60 per cent in the past four years," says Alex Koch de Gooreynd, a partner at the estate agency Knight Frank. "It's not only people in their sixties and over but also those who have sold businesses and want to take some time out. They all want to be active. Portugal's golf reputation is well established, and it's also encouraging cycling, with government investment improving many routes."

Portugal regularly tops International Living magazine's Annual Global Retirement Index, scoring for the friendly welcome, personal safety, healthcare and good infrastructure including high-speed internet. Affordability is another pull, with value-seeking retired Americans among those making the move, according to Alison Buechner Hojbjerg, a co-director of Quinta Properties Savills estate agency.

"When they realise the cost of living — a glass of wine for €3.50, a sandwich on the beach for €6 — they're blown away," she says. "The quality of life is second to none. Blue skies, Michelin-starred restaurants, beach bars, world-class sports facilities and, of course, excellent medical and dental care. Clients used to fly back to the UK for treatment but now they do the reverse. One client flew from Birmingham last year to have a heart bypass here. I've also seen an increase in younger families relocating and bringing grandparents with them."

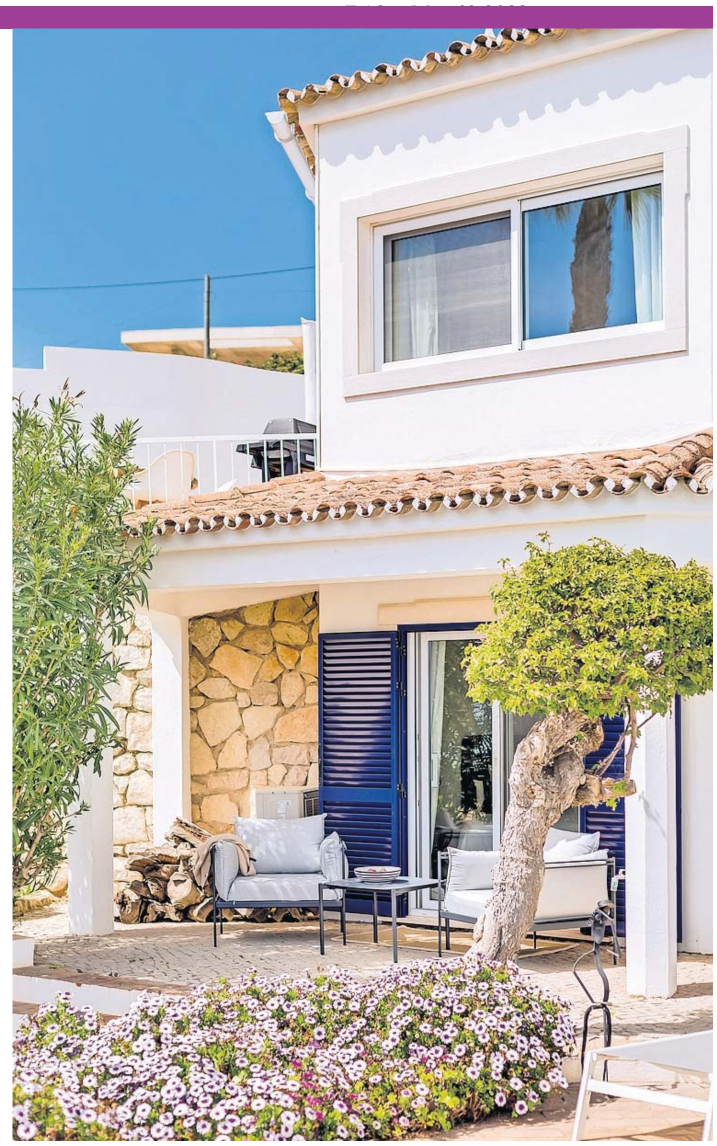
Buechner Hojbjerg recommends looking at Loule, a charming market town in the central Algarve with medieval cobblestone streets, a castle and artisan workshops. Prices start from about €165,000 (£143,000) for an unrenovated two-bedroom apartment.

"Sixty is the new fifty," says Benjamin Fragoso, the sales manager at Pine Cliffs in the Algarve, a five-star resort selling homes alongside extensive sporting facilities. "Roughly 30 to 40 per cent of our owners are over 60 and most of them are very active. Retirement is changing. People want a healthy life, and our facilities offer endless options."

Spain

The favourite destination for retired people from the UK? Spain has topped the list for over-50s for ten consecutive years, according to the insurance company Canada Life. For a permanent move UK citizens require a residence permit, typically a non-lucrative visa, private health insurance and proof they can support themselves financially. Anyone spending more than 183 days a year in Spain becomes a tax resident there, liable for tax on assets worldwide.

Golfers have some of Europe's best courses along the southern Costa del Sol, with Sotogrande at its western edge



This whitewashed two-bedroom villa in the Algarve, a ten-minute dri



Costa Smeralda in Sardinia, which is being promoted for retirement living. Left: Pine Cliffs in the Algarve sells homes and has extensive sporting facilities

'Retirees are among the fittest of all residents'



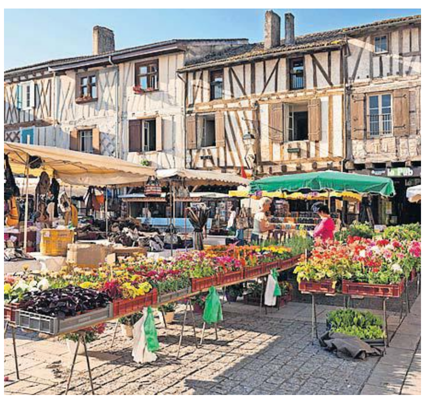
"You never retire from wine," jokes Wendy Narby, 62, who is British-born and semi-retired. She moved to France more than 30 years ago, working first in Paris and then in Bordeaux, when she married Hamilton, 69, a winemaker. They have handed their vineyard business over to one of their three sons. Wendy is a freelance writer and blogger who has published articles and two books on her love of wine and wellness. The couple spend much of the year in Mauritius, where they own a property at Heritage Villas Valriche.

"Retirees are among the fittest of all residents," Wendy says. "I've became a certified yoga instructor since moving here. We have weekly yoga, aerobics and weights sessions, meeting in the open air overlooking the sea. There's a biking club every Tuesday morning, a golf meet-up on Fridays and a 7km loop around the estate for walking or jogging where you always bump into friends. It's the perfect distance to start the day with 10,000 steps."



…e from Loule, is on the market for €1.3 million with Quinta Properties Savills





The village of Eymet in the Dordogne

upping the game with high-quality properties and facilities. Sporting options are outstanding: golf courses, marinas, polo fields, racquet sport courts, pools, and good hiking and biking opportunities. James Stewart of Savills Sotogrande estate agency reports a noticeable increase in retired buyers of a younger age who are determined to stay active.

Cycling is what brings international buyers of all ages to Girona, on the Costa Brava, where there's a good community of active retired people, according to Tom Maidment of Lucas Fox estate agency.

"You can't fail to notice the strong influence cycling has on the city, with an ever-growing number of bike-related shops and cafés," he says. "In Girona this demographic choose apartments in the ancient Jewish quarter, where two-bedroom properties start at about €375,000. In the countryside they look to the west and northwest, away from the more expensive Baix Empordà, where stone-built *masías* [a type of rural house] start at €750,000."

On the Balearic island of Mallorca older investors shy away from the retirement word, says Christina Deutsch of the estate agency Engel & Völkers. They've often sold their companies and plan to start a "new chapter in their lives". In the meantime the island has plenty to occupy them, with 47 marinas, 23 golf courses and 400km of hiking paths.

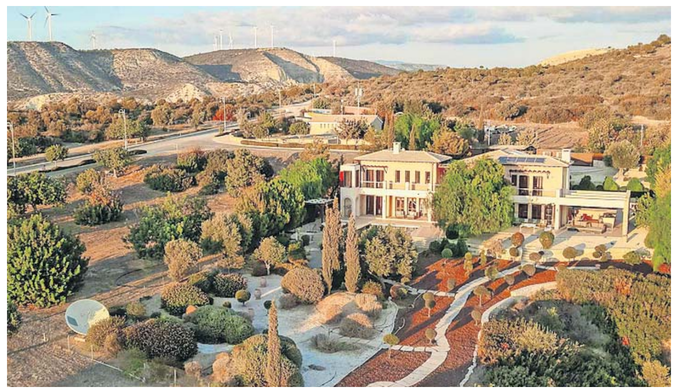
Italy

Natural beauty, endless culture, a supreme lifestyle and residency in return for a fixed tax payment of €100,000 a year on foreign income: it's a combination irresistible to international high-net-worth buyers.

> Roughly 30 to 40 per cent of our owners are over 60. Most of them are very active

Knight Frank's figures show that after several years in the doldrums Italian prime property prices outpaced the global average, at 6.5 per cent compared with 5.2 per cent worldwide. Sardinia led Knight Frank's prime price rankings for 2022, with an increase of 12 per cent, followed by Lake Como (8 per cent) and Florence (6 per cent).

Sardinia is renowned for the longevity of its residents — something elite Costa Smeralda on the northeast coast plans to capitalise on. Authorities have joined with the relocation expert Sardiamo to promote the island for retirement living. Play golf, hike or join Mema Bike Tours, a company set up by a couple "retiring" from the boardroom.





A mansion in a Cypriot golf resort is on sale for €4.5 million; Sotheby's International Realty

Cyprus

"We see more and more retirees coming to Cyprus looking for somewhere to remain active," says Anastasia Yianni, the chief executive of Cyprus Sotheby's International Realty, an estate agency. "British retirees in particular are attracted to the weather, which allows year-round golf, swimming, tennis and hiking. The value for money here can be much more attractive than in other European locations."

There are tax benefits too. Spending more than 183 days in Cyprus qualifies you as a tax resident, with advantages that include low income tax on foreign pensions: a flat 5 per cent for amounts over €3,420 a year.

France

Favourite locations in France for retired British people, according to the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (Insee), include the west and the south, in particular the villages of Eymet in the Dordogne and Callac in Brittany, where retired people make up 10 per cent and 8 per cent of the total population respectively.

Retired people from outside the EU will require a long-stay visa (VLS-TS), normally valid for five or ten years, along with proof of health insurance, accommodation and income that meets the French minimum wage level.

'Finding like-minded people is important'



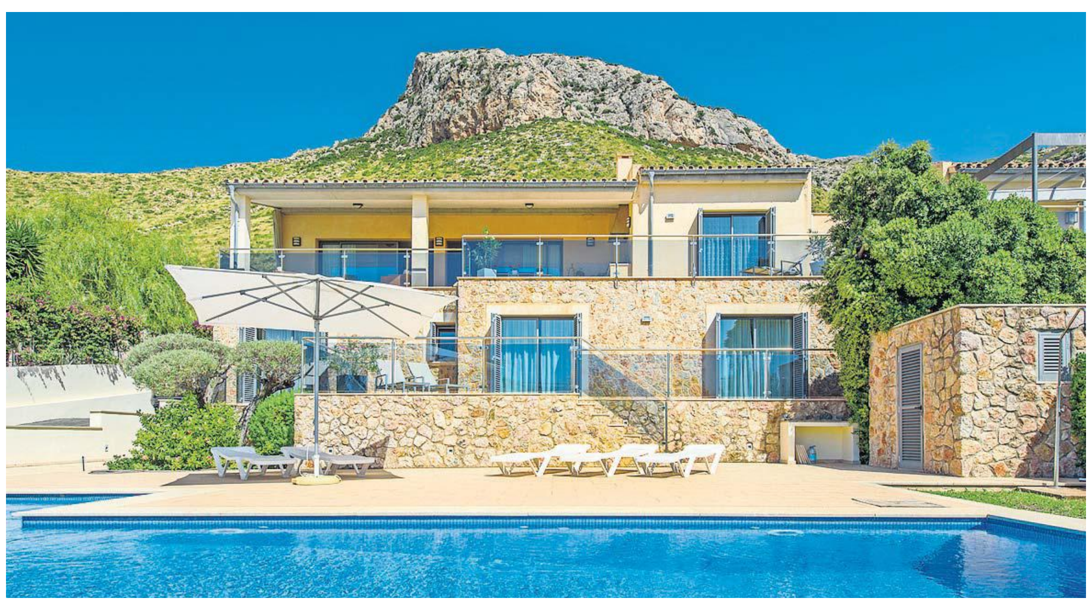
"Finding like-minded people is very important, and so are opportunities for an active lifestyle. We chose the Algarve because there are 20 golf courses within one hour, lots of padel courts, hiking and biking trails and beaches," Simon Hudson, 62, says.

When he and his wife, Louise, also 62, couldn't find a comprehensive source of information on a range of retirement locations, they wrote it themselves. *A Worldwide Guide to Retirement Locations*, published in 2019, details the issues to consider, with personal stories from those who have moved.

"Key considerations are the ease of obtaining a visa, climate, healthcare, housing and living costs and accessibility," Simon says. Potential difficulties include weighty bureaucracy, language barriers, loneliness and homesickness. Doing research is key.

The Hudsons still work part-time — Simon virtually, as a university professor, and Louise as a travel journalist and co-ordinator for a padel social network. They spend winters in the Canadian Rockies and summers in Portugal.

"When padel courts were built in our town, Praia da Luz, three years ago, I was a beginner, and with no one to play with I reached out through Facebook to find others keen to learn," Louise says. "Now the Ocean Padel Club Luz has 290 members with a wide age range — the majority, I believe, are over 50. With padel there's a quick learning curve. There's no difficult serve, it's played as doubles so is intrinsically sociable and the court is smaller than a tennis court."



A four-bedroom villa with a pool and sea views, in Puerto Pollensa in Mallorca, is on sale for €2.45 million







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*Facilities vary depending on location and product type. Extra charges apply for personal, domestic and lifestyle support services.

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Retirement homes with charm in spades

Beehives, pear-picking, bluebell walks and bug houses — these developments are going all in to woo gardeners, says Jane Slade

Landscaped gardens with a few benches, rockeries and shrubs no longer cut it for today's environmentally aware retired people. They want eco-friendly, imaginative designs that encourage biodiversity. Retirement operators are responding in spades to woo green-fingered buyers.

Audley Chalfont Dene, a retirement village of 142 apartments and cottages in Buckinghamshire, has welcomed 4,000 new residents with more on the way. A beekeeper is in charge of the busy newcomers, which reside in hives beside the orchard, wildflower meadow and allotments. The plan is to produce honey by the autumn.

"We are always looking at new ways to innovate in our gardens, and initiatives like these, which offer new learning and hands-on experiences, are incredibly valuable to our owners," says Nick Sanderson, the chief executive.

Beehives have also been introduced at Grove Place, LifeCare's retirement community set around an Elizabethan manor house at Nursling in Hampshire.

The new pond has been a big hit, as has the "bug house". "As well as supporting animals, plants and insects, it is a fascinating attraction for visiting grandchildren," says Robin Collins, the head gardener, who has created a wildlife and bluebell walk in the 27-acre grounds.

"We have a wonderful kitchen garden, with all the produce being used in the on-site restaurant," Collins adds.

Giving up the garden can be a bigger wrench than giving up the family home. It is common for people to check out the gardens of a retirement community before viewing the apartments. They like to inspect the allotments, greenhouses, tool sheds and even the bug hotels. RVG's Park Place village in Lincolnshire has a luxurious five-storey bug hotel with a grass roof.

Gardening was so important to Mike and Sue Money that they chose a bungalow over an apartment when they moved to Grove Place two years ago because it has a patio.

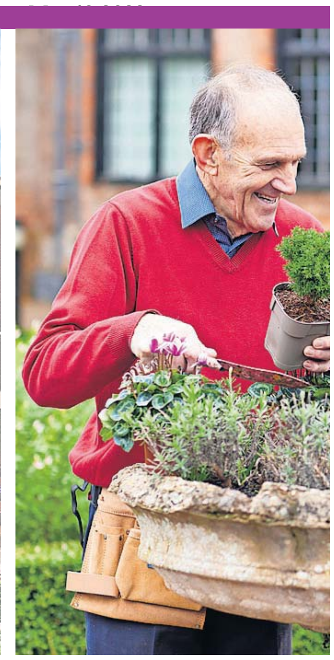
"We had always lived in a rural setting and wanted an outdoor space we could garden in," Mike says. "We had a big garden at our last home with hollyhocks, Canterbury bells and delphiniums. Here we are more limited and grow penstemons and grasses."

The Moneys, who are keen foragers, grow culinary herbs such as thyme, basil and curly and flat-leaf parsley.

"The most important thing is that we grow plants that are non-edible to deer, which roam the grounds during the evening," Mike says.

The 6.5-acre grounds at Shiplake Meadows, a new scheme of cottages and apartments priced from £595,000 near Henley-on-Thames in Oxfordshire, are a "classical English country garden". This should tick boxes with eco-aware buyers, since the operator Galliard/Probitas is planting only trees, plants and flowers that are indigenous to the area. Some 3,000 trees are being planted as well as an orchard of English apple and





Above: Shiplake Meadows near Henley-on-Thames. Above right: Mike and Sue Money at Grove Place

'I love my little balcony garden'



Helen Hayes, 80, has maintained her love of gardening since moving to her new apartment at Churchill Retirement Living's Lewis Carroll Lodge in Cheltenham in 2019. She makes the most of her south-facing balcony by nurturing an array of pot plants that brighten the place all year round.

"I have summer planting and winter planting in my pots," she says. "At the moment I'm at the tail end of my winter skimmia, pansies, white and pink heather and a few bulbs which are hardy enough to survive the colder months.

"Very soon my summer geraniums, petunias and lobelia will be on their way to bring in some cheerfulness and colour. That's all I have room for, but I love cultivating my little balcony garden." Hayes maintains pots around the communal areas. "It's a great way to keep up my love of plants without the bother of maintaining a whole garden."











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pear trees and residents' vegetable plots.

"We have designed the gardens to be a haven for residents as well as a sustainable environment for wildlife and fauna," Scott Curran of Probitas says. "As well as the communal garden there will be an allotment and fruit orchard where residents can pick apples, pears and plums." He is consulting a local apiarist to create a community of bees.

Retirement community operators, realising that creating beautiful spaces outside is important to retired homebuyers, have been employing award-winning professionals.

Andy Sturgeon, the multiple Chelsea Flower Show winner, has designed two gardens: at Auriens, London's rental-only community in Chelsea, and at Riverstone Fulham and Kensington, which are not only beautiful but mood enhancing. "The focus was on ensuring the Auriens garden would be a space that is serene and beautiful but would also energise and invigorate," he says.

Another Chelsea winner, Christopher Bradley-Hole, is creating a Japanese stroll garden at the Oren in Hampstead. The interaction with woodland is based on the Japanese concept of "forest bathing". Studies have shown that being in a restful garden bordered by trees lowers blood pressure and lifts the spirits.

"The way we garden has been undergoing a seismic change over the past decade," says the gardening expert and writer Louise Midgley. "Gone are scrupulously tidy beds and borders where plants were grown in neat rows and everything was chopped back to ground level. We understand the importance of supporting a wide diversity of wildlife. We need to embrace wilder areas that provide a sanctuary for living creatures to safely feed, breed and hibernate."

Midgley advises homeowners to use their patios and balconies to grow fruit and vegetables in hanging baskets, window boxes and containers. "Try growing tumbling tomatoes, cascading strawberries, mangetout, trailing cucamelons or dwarf beans," she says.

Herbalists such as Jekka McVicar, 72, are being included in the mix of retirement influencers. McVicar, described by the chef Jamie Oliver as the queen of herbs (she grows 500 varieties at her farm in Bristol), has designed a herb garden for Riverstone.

"Gardening is the greatest social thing you can do if you want to meet people," she says. "You can swap seed and plants and watch birds, butterflies and bees."

McVicar has blended a medicinal and culinary herb cocktail for Riverstone, including mint, basil and lemon verbena. "You can make glorious tea with lemon verbena and put it in ice cubes to add to gin and tonic," she says.

Jane Slade is the founder of the retirement property website retiremove.co.uk

Boomer or bust: meet the seniors reviving towns

Retirement schemes are regenerating urban areas that have lost office workers and shops



CGI of Thrive Living apartments that RVG plans to build in Chester

A groundbreaking model of retirement living is being rolled out for a new generation who want to live their later years in the heart of urban bustle.

These facilities put older people at the centre of urban cultural life — frequently it is they who already visit art galleries, the theatre and concert halls, eat out in local restaurants and shop locally.

Developers hope this shift from creating rural enclaves to urban ones can help to save parts of towns and cities from becoming deserted wastelands.

This is why the Retirement Villages Group has launched Thrive Living — a new brand of retirement accommodation designed for the baby boomer who is still fit enough to go hiking and biking in the countryside but doesn't want to live there.

RVG is known for its exclusive rural communities — it has built 14 over the past 40 years in counties including Hertfordshire, Somerset and Wiltshire. Now the operator is reacting to the needs of the younger retired and looking to build in town centres.

"We have seen a different attitude emerge as a new generation of retirees come online, who are seeking a more active retirement and often intending to work well into their seventies," explains Will Bax, the chief executive.

Thrive's first village will be in the middle of West Byfleet in Surrey. Botanical Place will offer 196 modern apartments for the over-60s, plus a cinema, gym, cafés, restaurants, shops and a spa, anchored around a pedestrianised square open to everyone.



The Chocolate Quarter retirement community in Bristol is a regeneration of a chocolate factory

RVG is building a public library for the town and considering a nursery after a prospective buyer asked if there might be one for his grandchildren.

There will be 15,000 sq ft dedicated to "other uses", which include a community space where retired people and the local community can come together.

RVG plans to build 40 more Thrive Living communities in the next decade, creating 5,000 homes. There are 170 units planned in Tunbridge Wells with a retail hub, and 160 apartments in Chester. A two-bedroom apartment in Chester will start at £450,000.

They will be big developments — towns within towns, one might say. "We have learnt that the bigger the community the more vital, interesting and bigger the opportunity of living there becomes," Bax says.

Michael Voges, chief executive of Arco, the retirement standards organisation, acknowledges that urban retirement schemes could be the answer to regenerating town and city centres.

"There's a new trend towards retirement communities moving into our cities and town centres, providing facilities for the wider community and helping to regenerate urban centres that are evolving in the wake of changing shopping habits.

"While some residents of retirement communities relish the quiet of the countryside, others crave the hustle and bustle of urban living and we expect to see many more of these schemes."



CGI of Botanical Place, which will be built in Surrey by Thrive

The fashionable Hurlingham Club in Fulham, west London, realises the attraction of high-end urban retirement living. It is holding its first later-living festival on May 22, designed to appeal to wealthy baby boomers who want to live life to the full. Tickets cost £89 and include a bucks fizz breakfast at 9.30am.

More urban developments

RVG is not the only pioneer of urban-driven developments in the UK. High-end LifeCare Residences built Battersea Place, the first retirement village in London. Audley Villages has built in Leamington Spa, Tunbridge Wells and London. And Lifestory has schemes in London, Seaford in East Sussex and Newcastle. Not all share their facilities with the wider public, but several urban retirement developments have brought vibrancy and life back to areas that used to be at the heart of Britain's manufacturing community.

The Chocolate Quarter retirement community, operated by St Monica's Trust in Bristol, is a regeneration of the Fry's chocolate factory site. Its café, restaurant, swimming pool, GP surgery, gym and cinema are accessible to the wider public (stmonicatrust.org.uk).

ExtraCare Charitable Trust's Longbridge Village occupies the five-acre site of the old Mini factory in Birmingham. It opened in 2017, offering 260 one and two-bedroom retirement apartments as well as a village hall, bar and bistro, gym, IT suite, beauty salon and shops that can be used by residents, their families and Longbridge locals.

Urban retirement schemes are gaining traction with baby boomers overseas too. In Australia, Kokoda Residences has opened in Sydney and, in the US, Waterstone has opened at Wellesley in the Boston area. The Lofts at McKinley, an affordable urban scheme in downtown Phoenix, Arizona, is proving a popular retirement enclave.

Jane Slade

'Move here while you can enjoy it'

Roy Ellis, 62, moved to Bournville Gardens Retirement Village operated by the ExtraCare Charitable Trust in the centre of Birmingham with his wife, Sandra, 66, seven years ago.

"We were one of the first to move in and we're the youngest here," Roy says. "We just knew it was right for us before it had even been built. I used to go once a week and take a picture of where our apartment would be on the fourth floor because we wanted the evening sun.

"As soon as we arrived, there were shows on, a busy bar, and a snooker room. I teach line dancing four times a week. The wider community come and join us; they love it. We have



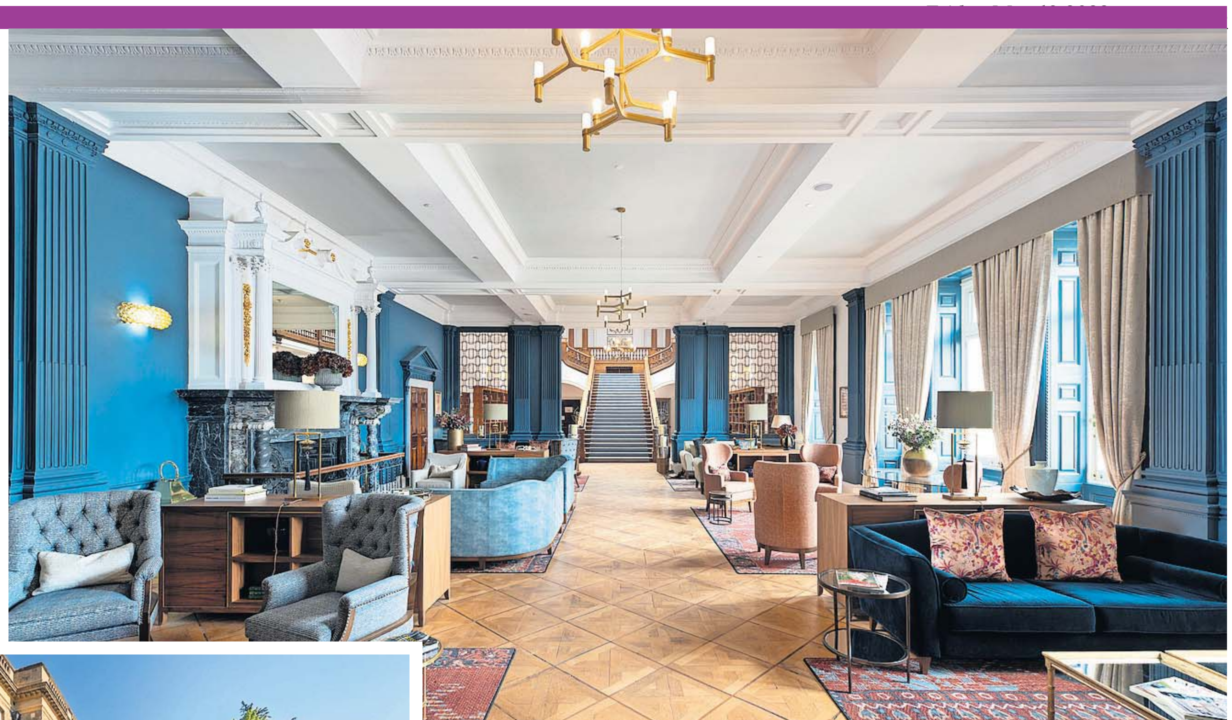
people from a local bowling club that join. Almost half of the line dancers are from outside the village. I also have classes at Hagley Road Retirement Village. It's a great example of community inclusion and for creating friendships and bringing the local area in.

"I didn't realise it at the time, but moving here when you're younger is perfect because the world is your oyster. A lot of people move to retirement villages when they aren't as capable any more — move here while you can enjoy it. Many people think it's an old people's home; it couldn't be further from that."

Bournville Gardens Retirement Village has 300 residents and opened in 2015. It has a gym, shops, a restaurant and village hall all open to the public. One and two-bedroom homes are available from £140,000 (shared ownership).
extracare.org.uk

Fit for royalty

A peek inside the opulent retirement homes staffed by smooth-talking cocktail makers and former butlers for the royals. By Jane Slade



Today's top-notch retirement villages have staff who can mix a cocktail, talk about working for the royal family and boast lifeguard skills and certificates in first aid.

Their experience makes them at ease in the swish hotel-style country club and grand estate environments, which are now home to wealthy retired people.

Nigel Walter has been village manager at Charters Village in West Sussex since 2015. But for three years in the 1980s he was an underbutler at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, working for the Duke and Duchess of York and serving Queen Elizabeth II.

"It set up my career as you have to be organised," he says. "We had a traffic light system in the royal household for all comings and goings into a function room, so the service was perfect, and an order of the day that was very detailed. I brought this to Charters."

Charters Village, near East Grinstead, has 16 rural acres and offers homes to buy or rent. Integrated retirement villages (IRCs) such as this are packed with facilities including swimming pools, restaurants and gyms. Some have foyers with grand pianos and concierge desks, curated libraries, Michelin star-standard cuisine and landscaped gardens.

Greg Mace, experience manager at Riverstone Living, which has two retirement villages in the capital, has not only worked at the Connaught and Dorchester hotels in London, but for the past 25 years has been a member of Buckingham Palace support staff brought in for large state events.

"There are no shortcuts to providing outstanding service," he says. "It is about meticulous attention to detail and thinking deeply about the service journey and how everyone works together to achieve an incredible result."

Both general managers at Riverstone Kensington and Fulham are former luxury hotel managers too — the modern retired client expects high standards.

Mace also wants staff who have had interesting lives so they can engage with homeowners. "Our team members have come from really varied backgrounds," he says.

Riverstone's homes start at £810,000. Among the usual luxury facilities including cinemas, restaurants and spas, homeowners also have use of a chauffeur and a BMW electric car.

Six months ago Melanie Miotti, 51, arrived to manage Fitzjohn's Avenue by Lifestory, a development in north London. She has worked at Claridge's, run private members' clubs and was PA to the hotelier Lady Weinberg.

For her it's all about exceeding expectation. "We have to know our owners' likes and dislikes so we can strike up a good conversation that resonates with them. We must not be overfamiliar. I like formality — we don't want to overstep the mark, particularly as we have some titled owners here at Fitzjohn's. Hospitality is pivotal — nothing less is acceptable."



The Great Hall, top, and terrace, above, at Wildernesse House in Kent

Nowhere are the credentials more important than among catering teams. Roberto Manconi, head chef at the Retirement Villages Group's Avonpark Village, set in 15 acres overlooking the Avon Valley near Bath, previously worked at the three-Michelin-starred L'Ambroisie in Paris.

"Understanding the power of food and the moment when our residents sit down to share time and experience is a crucial part of my job," Manconi says.

The fine-dining team at Wildernesse, Elysian Residences' grand estate in Sevenoaks, Kent, is led by the award-winning head chef Gareth Cox, who trained at Claridge's. He was then a head chef in Kyiv before returning to England to work for Gordon Ramsay at the Boxwood Café in Knightsbridge, central London.

> **"It is about meticulous attention to detail and thinking deeply about the service journey**



Auriens in Chelsea, west London, offers luxury later-life living

Gavin Stein, Elysian's chief executive, says he wants to build places "where owners can stand a little taller". Wildernesse consists of a grade II listed country house set in 24 acres. There are 23 apartments in the main house and eight contemporary mews houses. A further 53 apartments are opening later this year, costing from £595,000.

Cheryl Essam, 70, and her husband, David, 78, *below*, live in one of the mews houses at Wildernesse. Cheryl says: "Living here is even better than we imagined it; the wonderful and extremely well-trained Elysian staff are a large part of this. They make us and all the homeowners feel secure and cosseted. For example, we go to London regularly and the staff run us to the station and pick us up, which is a real bonus. Nothing is too much trouble."



Managers such as Keith Turnbull believe hospitality extends way beyond the entrance to Wadswick Green, Rangeford's retirement community near Bath. Turnbull arrived in March to take the helm after spending his entire career in hotels.

"The key difference is our customers here are homeowners," he says. "More personal service is required because it is their home."

After running the 1,000-room Hard Rock hotel London, in 2021 Karl Mlynarczyk became general manager of Brio Retirement's Button House in Hackbridge, southwest London, launching the 80 apartments there.

Even though he runs Button House like a five-star boutique hotel, he also has an eye on the bottom line. "I believe my educational background [banking and business management] mixed with hotel experience gives me an advantage as not only can we be great and deliver fantastic service, but we need to keep our expenditure under control." One and two-bedroom apartments at Button House are priced from £304,000, or to rent from £1,671pcm.

Staff at midmarket schemes are displaying impressive credentials too. Ashley Holsgrove, house manager of Cardamom Court by McCarthy Stone, in Bexleyheath in Kent, worked for the Crown Estate for 20 years, managing high-spec residences, nightclubs, restaurants, art galleries, shops and offices in Mayfair, Piccadilly and Soho.

"It's the finer details I think that matter the most," Holsgrove says. "I've also learnt that it helps to have a laugh and a joke with people from all walks of life and make them feel like a superstar. And that's exactly what I do with the homeowners here at Cardamom Court."

Although hospitality is being prioritised at retirement developments, care provision is still important. "Enabling people to stay independent for as long as possible requires a great hospitality and care offer," says Michael Voges, of the Associated Retirement Community Operators.

"A customer might want great hospitality when planning their 85th birthday party or hosting friends, but need additional care and support when recovering from a bout of flu or a hospital stay."

Indeed, data from the estate agency Knight Frank shows there is now more "with care" than straightforward retirement and sheltered housing being built.

Being surrounded by a group of friends and a supportive team has exceeded the expectations of Michael Parr and his wife, Pat, since they moved to the Woodlands, an Adlington development in Greater Manchester. Having spent 41 years in their family home, the couple decided to move to a ground-floor apartment last year.

Retired midwife Pat, 84, feels she and Michael, an 85-year-old former police officer, are living the dream. "The whole set-up here is so well run," she says. "If I could have handpicked all the people who work here, they would be this team. The restaurant staff can't do enough for us and the duty manager and the general manager are willing to do anything we could possibly ask of them."

Homes at the Woodlands start at £279,950 for a one-bedroom apartment.





Above: Elysian Residences' Landsby. Right: Pat and Michael Parr with their daughter Michelle at the Woodlands

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Later living on your terms

Whether your next step is to rent or buy, Pegasus gives you the freedom to keep your options open, ensuring your next chapter is one that's right for you.

It's important to us that whatever chapter is on the cards, our customers can flex their next step around their circumstances and priorities. We understand that the process of moving home, at any age, can be a big undertaking, and many of our customers are downsizing from family homes that they have lived in for many years.

At Pegasus, we believe that having a choice matters. This is why we don't earmark specific homes 'To Rent' or 'To Buy' and we don't water down the facilities or services either way. With over 20 age-exclusive communities set in some of the UK's most desirable locations, Pegasus is redefining independent later living by offering customers the option to Buy, Rent or Rent to Buy.

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Choosing what matters

As traditions modernise and circumstances become increasingly individualistic, the need for a wider array of choices has never been felt more than now, and increasingly our customers are downsizing and choosing to rent – whether to release equity, test the suitability of a place to live before buying, or simply to enjoy the flexibility that renting a home can bring.

Responding to the lack of choice in the residential market, Pegasus is currently offering three months' rent-free* at selected communities, helping remove the responsibilities that homeownership can bring in terms of management and maintenance so that residents can spend time on the things – and the people – they love most.

For Anthony Cordle, the freedom of renting at Pegasus' Steepleton community in Tetbury gave him the flexibility to enjoy the Cotswolds whilst knowing familiar faces weren't too far away. Anthony explains: "When I first moved to the area, my daughter found me a garden cottage to rent locally. I lived there for a year and really got to like this part of the world, so I decided to start looking for a home close by.

When I moved to Steepleton, the freedom, and flexibility of renting was the best option for me – allowing me to enjoy the location and facilities whilst knowing I can visit family nearby."

We also understand that renters often want to try before they commit to buying, which is why we offer residents up to six months' rent back if they choose to purchase their property after nine months of renting. This gives residents the opportunity to test the waters in their new home and have confidence that they are making the right choice.

> "The freedom, and flexibility of renting was the best option for me – allowing me to enjoy the location and facilities whilst knowing I can visit family."
>
> *Anthony Cordle*
> Resident at Steepleton, Tetbury

Communities underpinned by connections

At the heart of all Pegasus' communities, regardless of their location, size, or tenure options, is a commitment to wellness. Whilst this has evolved since the days of spas and pools, Pegasus' communities offer residents the choice of these hotel-style facilities, alongside a range of shared living spaces, for the perfect balance of a relaxing, active, and sociable lifestyle. Boasting a wealth of cultural touchpoints and proximity to Britain's bucolic countryside and coastlines, and featuring fitness spaces, libraries, and beautiful, landscaped gardens and allotments, our communities underscore the importance of empowering an overall healthier lifestyle by nurturing hobbies, interactions with nature, and new social connections – often one of the biggest barriers to moving in later life.

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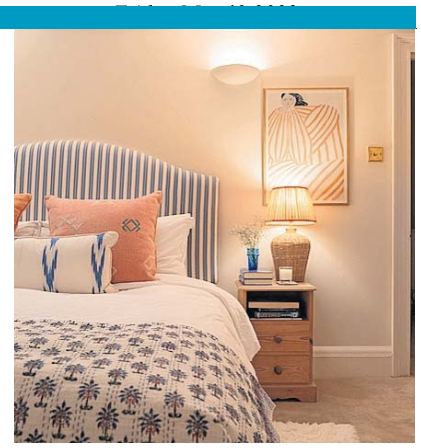
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Tash Bradley in her living room. Above: her bedroom

Colour me happy

Tash Bradley, director of interior design at Lick, gives Victoria Brzezinski her style tips

Colour-obsessed Tash Bradley is not one to be surrounded by drab decor. She's the daughter of an interior designer, and her eye for rainbow shades has been honed since an early age.

A former artist, Bradley gained a degree in the applied psychology of colour and now, as the director of interior design at Lick, the paint and wallpaper company that was launched during the pandemic and has a cult following, she helps clients to embrace colour and branch out from the boring — on all sorts of budgets.

At the start of 2023 she and her husband, Sam (one of Lick's co-founders), relocated from a rented Somerset cottage to another rental, a one-bedroom apartment in southwest London. "It's an old ex-embassy building — the bones of the house are unreal," Bradley, 33, says. "What sold us on it was the incredible bay window, marble fireplace and the double-height ceiling in the living room."

It had splendid features, but the dreary interiors were in need of proper TLC. Bradley estimates that the property had last been decorated 15-20 years ago. "It was in a really run-down condition, and painted in that shade of magnolia that every builder uses. And as it's north-facing, it was so dark," she says.

None of this put the couple off from taking on the rental. "You can 100 per cent work with the landlord [to redecorate]. In the last three places I've rented I've always said to the landlord: 'I'll provide the paint and the decorator.' Some landlords will even pay for the decorator if you pay for the paint. It depends on how long you're going to be there, but I normally create a mood board and show them what I'm looking to do. I've never had anyone say, 'Please don't do this,' because you're only going to increase the value of their property."

This landlord didn't take much convincing, although Bradley didn't have carte blanche to do anything she liked. "I really wanted to do a pale blue everywhere, but the landlord wanted to stay neutral, which was totally fine. I love colours, so I would have gone bolder [on the walls]. That's why I've gone bold with my furnishings, to bring that injection of colour."

The living room has been painted in a warm white with a pink undertone (Lick's White 06). "Because it was north-facing, I wanted to warm it up. Any whites with a yellow or pink undertone would have been perfect," she says. "I stuck to a three-colour rule in the room: pink, green and yellow. Basically, you go up and down the scale with these colours."

The soft blushing walls are complemented by the stronger tones of a pink corduroy sofa and in the books on the shelves. Greenish hues are incorporated through Bradley's teal sofa and vast collection of plants. The vintage French mustard armchair (which she picked up for £100 at Ardingly Antiques Fair) and turmeric-coloured vase on the mantelpiece add another playful boost. For anyone overwhelmed by the idea of going for bright colour on the walls, this approach — bolder, braver subdominant colours from sofas, rugs and artwork — is Bradley's go-to tip.

Other paint shades that would work in a north-facing living room include pinks — "aka the hug in a paint tin" — from muted bubblegum to dusty pastel.

> "Paint the walls and woodwork one colour so you don't have that white outline of skirting"

Or you could embrace the darkness and go for a midtone that "absorbs all the shadow". "I would wrap the room in either green or teal and that would just look incredible," she says. "I always recommend painting the walls and the woodwork all one colour, so you don't have that white outline of skirting going around the room."

Bradley's initial reaction to the lower ground-floor kitchen, with its dull brown cabinetry and "horrible" tiles, was: "Oh my God, what am I going to do with this?" She sent photos to the landlord of the colour she wanted to repaint the cabinets — a sky blue. "I also said: 'I'd like to put on these cabinet handles.' He said, 100 per cent, do it."

Bradley redecorated the kitchen in two days. "The power that paint can have on transforming a space is massive. If you're willing to do it yourself, you can get it done in a weekend. I would recommend eggshell paint for a kitchen as it's much more durable. I took all the cabinet doors off and sanded them down gently. I painted my kitchen cabinets with one coat of primer and then two coats of eggshell in Lick Blue 15. It took one 2.5-litre pot of paint to do that whole kitchen. Lick paint dries in an hour, so it's easy to do two coats in a day. The next day I did the walls and the ceilings in matt white, the same as the living room." A large jute rug covers the less-than-perfect tiles, and Bradley plans to create a window seat with an upholstered cushion. "I think colour on the cabinets and neutral walls look stunning in a kitchen," she says.

In an ideal world Bradley would have painted her bedroom "a really strong pink". "Any rooms that are lower ground, basement or north-facing have a dull, grey light that comes in and really shows up shadow. I carried the pink-toned white through here and basically painted everything in it: door, walls and ceiling, which totally knocks out any contrasts. I used the eggshell finish in this room — it's got a 15 per cent sheen and is slightly more reflective, which is better if you've got a darker room. It creates a really soft atmosphere."

The only change she has made to the bathroom is painting the inside of the cabinets the colour of the kitchen. "It's a nice way of using up leftover paint. When I open up the cupboard doors I've got this lovely blue hue. It's a fun way to add a highly saturated colour, especially if you're renting."

Other colours she recommends for windowless bathrooms include Beige 02, from Lick's collaboration with Soho House. "It's a rich beige, which gives you an almost spa-like feel and looks incredible with green plants. Green is always a good colour. Lick's Green 09 has a soft sage undertone to it. Green 13 has a lovely warmth to it, and would look great with a neutral, earthy tile or stronger green tiles."

Her hallway has been repainted in the same white, on request of the landlord, but in an ideal world, when painting a dark hallway "the last thing you want to do is paint it white". "I'd always encourage everyone to go bold. It's a space you spend almost no time in, but it leads to all the other rooms. Most people don't have a huge hallway. As soon as you paint it white you see all the shadow and it looks dull, lifeless and feels like a non-room. You could go for anything from a bright yellow to a rich blue or a wallpaper — even painting stripes. Going for a statement colour in the hallway makes all the rooms coming off it feel lighter."

She and Sam did a good chunk of the decorating themselves, but a tradesman repainted the living room. "Because it's a listed building, I had to get a specialist painter to come in and spray the main room. When you have lovely ceiling roses you don't want the paint to get clumped up on the detailing. It took a guy with a sprayer three days. Then we had the removal men coming, we unpacked and I did some styling. That was it — an eight-day transformation."





Bradley's living room, with blushing walls, and, right, her kitchen*

i Tash Bradley's top five tips for renters

1 Change all the lightbulbs to a warm white.
2 Layered lighting: a tall floor lamp mixed with table lamps. So many rentals have bright overhead lighting.
3 Change the curtains or blinds. They are a big feature in a room, so if they're not very nice, swapping them to a stripe or similar is an easy way to change the feel. You can take them with you when you move out.
4 Oversized rugs can hide a multitude of sins.
5 Artwork brings your personality into a space, and every room should have a mirror — the bigger the better.



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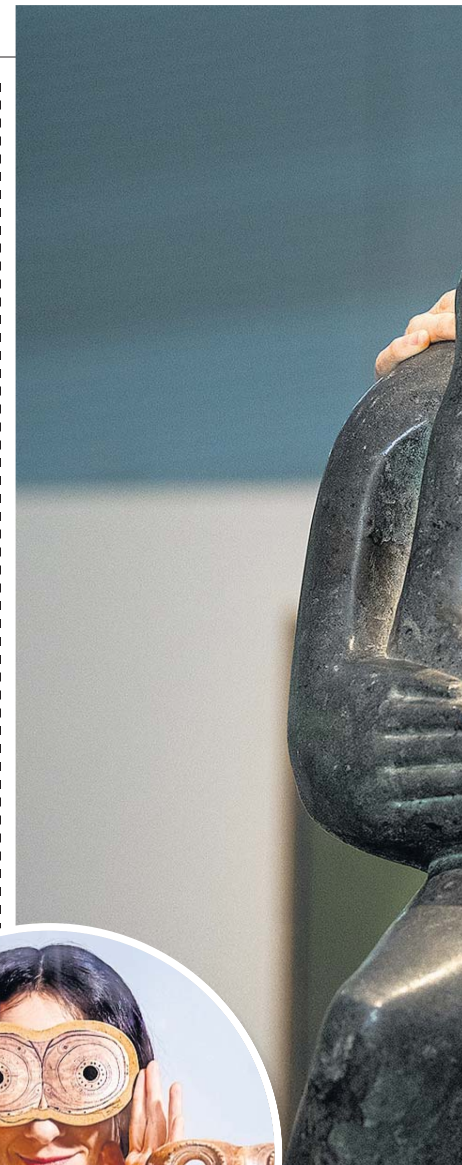
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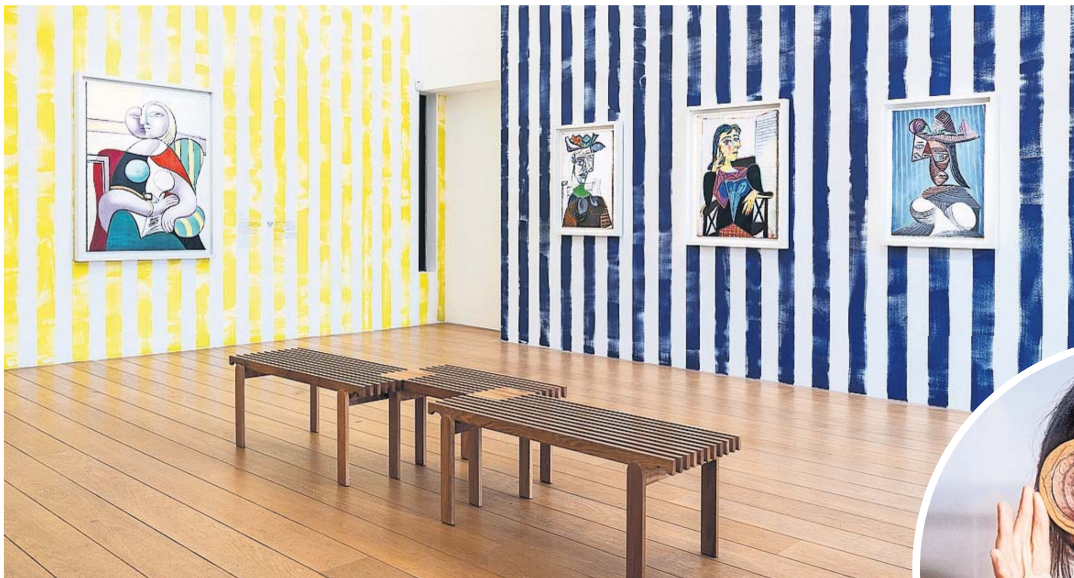
Maïwenn, the woman who brought Johnny Depp back to the screen

arts

Do touch the art! How galleries became the new playgrounds



From hugging sculptures to hanging Picassos on stripy walls, the way we look at art has changed, says Laura Freeman





Hug a Henry. Go on, get in close. Don't be shy. Rest your cheek on the mother's shoulder, stroke the contours of the baby's little head. Close your eyes and cuddle up.

Starting today, if you go down to the Sainsbury Centre on the University of East Anglia campus just outside Norwich, you too can hug a Henry Moore. I went on Wednesday and it was one of the most moving experiences of my gallery-going life. "Don't touch the art" is the usual museum cry. "Do touch the art," says Jago Cooper, director of the Sainsbury Centre, as he encourages me to maul the Moore.

Before I lay so much as a finger on the stone, Cooper tells me to look into the eyes of the mother — tiny black bead dots that catch the gallery lights — and then to close my eyes and try to think back to my earliest memory of being held by my mother. I can't immediately summon up the memory, but I had held my daughter (six months, two weeks and two days) on my hip like that in the kitchen only that morning. Was that a tear in my black, beaded eye? It might have been the lack of sleep or the hormones, but I reckon it was the art.

There is a changing of the guard in the art world. Don't touch, keep behind the guide ropes and respect the canon are out. Immersive experiences, artistic interventions and TikTok tours are in. Outsiders are in. Ernst Gombrich declared that there was no such thing as art, only artists, but his artists were, to a man, male. As Tate Britain and the National Portrait Gallery prepare to reopen their galleries this month and next after big rehangs, they face not only the challenges of balancing affection for the golden oldies — the *April Loves*, the Turners, the Kit-Cat Club portraits — with calls to show more female artists, more artists of colour, more artists from the margins.

If the buzzwords were once "connoisseurship", "style" and "conservation", they are now "controversial", "patriarchy" and that catch-all bogeyman "Empire". Captions have become a settling of scores, a rap on the knuckles, a confession of the sins of the fathers. One Tate staffer told me in whispers that they had been through "agonies" over the wall texts. What used to be information is now admonition. I'd rather have no text at all than a text that tells me what to think.

Better to learn to think — and look — for yourself. That's what the Sainsbury Centre is trying to do. As the gallery, founded by the imaginative magpie collectors Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, celebrates its 50th anniversary, Cooper wants visitors to think about each object, painting or sculpture in the collection not as inanimate things but as living beings. When you click through the catalogue online you don't get "object histories" you get "life stories". The Sainsbury has come up with prompts, games, gambits and icebreakers to help you to get to know each living thing as you encounter it.

Picasso Celebration: The Collection in a New Light!, the exhibition art-directed by Paul Smith at the Picasso Museum in Paris. Below: David Hockney: Bigger & Closer (not smaller & further away) at Lightroom in London

> It was one of the most moving experiences of my gallery-going life



I was all ready to think "gimmick". But the scheme is a brilliant crib sheet of ways to engage with art. You could spend an afternoon at the Sainsbury and take the lessons learnt with you to every gallery and museum you visit for the rest of your life. At its centre, each intervention — hug a sculpture, tango with a Tang dynasty dancer, sport a pair of Alaskan snow goggles — is simply asking you to spend more time looking.

It is not easy in our distracted age to pause, look, listen. And, yes, you should listen to art. There's a wooden Maori nguru (flute) here from New Zealand inlaid with pearlescent discs from the shell of an edible seasnail. The nguru was made to be played. So think: how would you hold it, where would you put your lips, where does the sound come out, what tune — jaunty, festive, mournful, rousing — might you play? Think first, then listen to a recording of the flute being played. Suddenly an inanimate instrument lives and breathes.

Don't just stand there! If there's music you must move. Meet the three Chinese Tang dynasty tomb dancers. Strike a pose, bust a groove. Once you start trying to imitate them, you realise how stretched, even unnatural, their poses are. I got a crick in my neck. At first I instinctively adopted the contrapposto pose of western sculpture — look at Michelangelo's *David* for the perfect example: weight on one leg, hip slightly popped — but that isn't right here. The Tang dancers curve and sway like ivory tusks. Legs apart, weight evenly balanced, all the bend in the upper body. I was once taken round the Rodin Museum in Paris by the great curator and classicist Ian Jenkins, who died in 2020. Although his Parkinson's was making movement increasingly difficult, he said that you should always think of sculpture in terms of real bodies. Could I hold that pose, is that stretch even possible, where does the burden fall?

Walk a mile in a pair of dancing slippers and see the world through a pair of walrus ivory snow goggles. When I put on a replica pair, the photographer's standing lamp does a good job of summoning the glare of sun on snow. What might I have seen out there on the ice and how would I have carved such delicate patterns with freezing fingers?

And what is it like to be looked at all day? There's a lifesize glass case you can step into and be stared at by an assortment of masks and photographs of great artists. Disconcerting. You can also lie in a hammock and look up at Giacometti's portrait of his brother Diego. It's nice, just hanging out. How many exhibition trips have been cut short because, frankly, your feet and lower back are killing you? Museums could dramatically increase the time visitors spend really looking at art if they simply installed a few more benches. With backs. And proper upholstery.

How do we look at art now? When the great temple-fronted museums were built in the 18th and 19th centuries, the expectation was clear. We came to stand in reverent silence in front of the grand canon — no girls allowed — of western art. Woe betide the visitor whose wet shoes squeaked on the marble. But no one who has

ALI SMITH FOR THE TIMES; VINCIANE LEBRUN/VOYEZ-VOUS; DANIEL LEAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

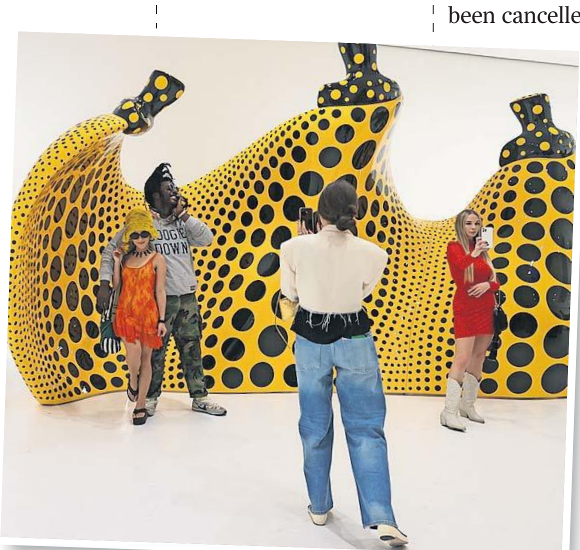


been to Tate Modern's Turbine Hall on a bank holiday Monday could say the contemporary art scene is quiet.

We live in the age of the experience. We don't want to pay our respects, we want to join in. Something to post on social, something to tell the grandchildren. There are more than 15 million posts tagged #makingmemories on Instagram. We're here for a good time, not a long time. I wouldn't be the first to note that millennials and Gen Zers look at the amount of stuff their boomer parents have accumulated with disbelief. All those books, videos, CDs and clothes. Younger consumers download, listen, read, delete. Sell it on Depop and buy something new. If you think you may never own your own home, if your life is short-term lets and rented Zipvans, why amass things that only mean trouble the next time you move?

Instead, experiences. We want to see ourselves reflected in Yayoi Kusama's *Infinity Mirror Rooms*, place of a thousand sparkling selfies. We want full-body, 360-degree immersion in the paintings of Van Gogh, Gustav Klimt or Frida Kahlo. Some of these animated artists' rooms are more successful than others. The Klimt was like being stuck inside a screensaver. David Hockney's *Bigger & Closer (not smaller & further away)* at Lightroom in King's Cross is like diving into the best art history lecture and perspective lesson you've ever had.

Laura hugs Henry Moore's Mother and Child and, left, tries on a pair of snow goggles at the Sainsbury Centre in Norwich. Below: Yayoi Kusama's I Spend Each Day Embracing Flowers show at the David Zwirner gallery in New York



Maximalism is in. Call it the "Gesamtkunstwerk" or call it "good for the 'gram", either way, white cube galleries look deathly boring on social media. Some interventions work — inviting the German artist Lothar Götz to paint the formerly white Towner gallery in Eastbourne in rainbow diagonals was a stroke of genius — some don't. The Picasso Museum in Paris, formerly sternly distempered, has been plastered by the British designer Paul Smith in multicoloured pinstripes. Nice showcase for Paul, not so nice for Pablo. At least there still is a Picasso Museum and at least its star hasn't been cancelled. In New York the Brooklyn Museum is marking 50 years since the death of Picasso with an exhibition, *It's Pablo-matic*, curated by the Australian comedian Hannah Gadsby. An audio tour narrated by Gadsby puts Picasso in a post #MeToo context and puts him firmly in his place. I'd rather just have Picasso, goatishness and all.

The Sainsbury Centre scheme seems to me so successful because, for all its chivvying and its stream of ideas — "It is fun to have fun, but you have to know how," as the Cat in the Hat would put it — it keeps the art at the heart of what it asks us to do. The wallpaper shouldn't steal the painting's limelight and the hammock shouldn't be a bigger draw than Diego. Play around, put on costumes, hum a tune, only remember: the art's still the thing.

The new-look Sainsbury Centre opens today, sainsburycentre.ac.uk

The hot list
Your guide to the weekend

Film



Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret
Abby Ryder Fortson (*Ant-Man*), *first right*, is a revelation as 11-year-old Margaret Simon, a contented New Yorker dragged to suburban New Jersey just as she's on the cusp of "womanhood". Rachel McAdams and Benny Safdie star as Margaret's parents, and it's nimbly directed by Kelly Fremon Craig, with an occasionally heavy hand of wholesomeness. But Forston saves the day, carrying the film with physical comedy, witty one-liners and tear-stained monologues. *See review, page 8.* *In cinemas*

Theatre

The Second Woman
This promises to be the weirdest show of the year. Ruth Wilson, *right*, embarks on a one-off 24-hour performance, enacting the same scene from a crumbling relationship opposite 100 different actors. One for audiences with extra stamina. *Young Vic, SE1 (youngvic.org), 4pm today to 4pm tomorrow*



Pop



The Milk Carton Kids
Like a modern-day Simon and Garfunkel, this acoustic guitar-wielding folk rock duo from California do a nice line in sweet harmony and winsome reflection. Favourites such as *Michigan* and *Younger Years* are evocative in a quiet way, while Kenneth Pattengale, *above left*, and Joey Ryan's virtuosity and banter, combined with their poetic visions of modern American life, make a Milk Carton Kids concert an appealingly gentle affair. *Union Chapel, N1 (unionchapel.org.uk), tomorrow*

Comedy

Judi Love: The One Like Judi Love
The ebullient first UK tour from the stand-up and TV presenter takes in her fame, her love life … and a set piece in which she acts out her own conception. *Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, tonight; Birmingham Hippodrome, tomorrow (judilove.co.uk)*



Classical

Die Walküre
Regents Opera's slimmed-down *Ring* cycle began promisingly with *Das Rheingold* in the autumn, with strong singing and resourceful reduced orchestration by



Ben Woodward, *left*. Woodward now returns to conduct the second instalment in Caroline Staunton's production. *Freemasons' Hall, London WC2 (regentsopera.com), Sunday*

Visual art

The Sainsbury Centre
Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the gallery by getting closer to the collection. Hug a Henry Moore, go nose-to-nose with a Giacometti and dance with a Tang dynasty figurine. *Sainsbury Centre, Norwich (sainsburycentre.ac.uk), today, tomorrow, Sunday*



cover story

‘With Johnny it was important not

Maïwenn, the director and star of Cannes’ most explosive film, tells Kevin Maher about Depp, her abusive childhood and how she really did spit at a journalist

Now that’s how you open a Cannes Film Festival! Not with dud zombie movies such as last year’s *Final Cut* or 2019’s *The Dead Don’t Die*. And not with Hollywood misfires such as first night howlers *Grace of Monaco* or *Robin Hood*. No, if you want to launch the world’s most prestigious film festival in grand attention-grabbing style you opt, instead, for nothing less than total media meltdown. Enter Maïwenn.

It is an understatement to say that the French 47-year-old multi-hyphenate actress-writer-director-producer-singer Maïwenn Le Besco, professionally known as Maïwenn, swung into Cannes on Tuesday morning like the proverbial wrecking ball.

Boasting a controversial Johnny Depp period drama, *Jeanne du Barry*, and bullet-proof insouciance, she transformed the giddy sun-kissed Croisette into a sea of nearly 4,000 foam-flecked journalists. It was an outrage, they said, that Depp was back in movies after his two highly

> I offered him the part before the trials. And then I didn’t follow them

publicised defamation trials. “If you support Cannes you support predators” roared the #CannesYouNot online campaign.

And this Maïwenn, they said. She’s a rum one indeed. She dated the director Luc Besson when she was only 15. Had his daughter at 16. And she got her film-making break by shooting a behind-the-scenes documentary on Besson’s movie *Leon*.

She’s clearly highly ambitious. And, as if by magic, just before the red carpet premiere of *Jeanne du Barry*, Variety broke a story about Maïwenn spitting, literally, into the face of a crusading (male) French journalist, because he was pro #MeToo and she was apparently anti and so case closed, she’s toxic, Depp is evil, and Cannes is a moral hellscape.

So, no. Not the softest opening to a festival ever. And yet here we are, two days later and the tectonic plates of cultural opinion are shifting ever so slightly. The film, for a start, has opened in French cinemas to huge commercial success, easily beating the Hollywood action blockbuster *Fast X* at the box office.

And Maïwenn, who also directed and co-wrote the movie, is sitting before me in a quiet hotel restaurant next to the sea and beaming with satisfaction at having trashed Vin Diesel in French multiplexes. “Of course it’s a relief,” she says. “I’ve worked hard on the film for seven years and, recently, it’s been a little bit up and down!”

In the film she has cast herself as the 18th-century courtesan Jeanne Bécu, Comtesse du Barry, the defiant and scandal-prone royal mistress of King Louis XV. Depp plays the king, and the film deftly charts the rise and fall of their relationship, focusing on the courtly feathers ruffled along the way to Jeanne’s eventual execution, via guillotine, in 1793. On the subject of Depp, which is the elephant in every room in Cannes, it seems, she is unrepentant.

“I offered him the part before the trials began,” she says. “And once they began I didn’t follow them. I said to myself, ‘I wasn’t there. I cannot judge him or I cannot judge her.’ And even as I say this I know it feels like I’m setting a fire for myself, but I needed to preserve my professional desire for him as a director.

“And that may sound shocking to some, but it was really important for me not to act as a prosecutor of some kind. And today, unfortunately, with social media, everybody has become a prosecutor for every single event that happens in the world.”

The film has been attacked in other ways too. It features a provocative scene, for instance, where the king presents Jeanne, as a gift, with a young African boy (possibly from Ethiopia, via Bangladesh) called Zamor (Ibrahim Yaffa).

He soon becomes her page and, essentially, her house slave. Some critics have found this politically objectionable. “But that’s history!” she says, howling with outrage. “It’s true! It’s true! It’s true! On set even Johnny said to me, ‘Are you sure you want to include this, because it’s going to be controversial?’ But if you start being fearful of what history is really like then you’re entering the realms of fantasy. And I like showing how paradoxical life can be. A human being is never entirely black and white.”

This is what frustrates, it seems, many people about Maïwenn (I had heard nothing but negative industry gossip before I met her). In a world of ironclad certainties, she’s inherently mercurial. She’s of Algerian, Vietnamese and French descent, and yet she dares to shoot racially uncomfortable movie sequences.

She’s a singular, unapologetic female film-maker who says she avidly follows the #MeToo movement and yet works with one of its bêtes noires (Depp). She says, in fact, that the story of Jeanne du Barry, and of the criticisms and censure she received from the royal court, is really her story. That’s why she made it.

“I wanted so badly to make this film,





Maïwenn on the set of Jeanne du Barry. Below: with her co-star Johnny Depp in Cannes. Above right, from top: with her former husband Luc Besson in 1995; in The Fifth Element

because the story is a metaphor for my relationship with the film business for the past 20 years,” she says. “The way Jeanne is despised in Versailles is really the way the industry people made me feel. They overlooked me because I was too young, too naive, and not educated enough.”

She had, it seems, a nightmare childhood by anyone’s metric, and grew up in Île-de-France as the oldest of five children in a “poor” family, who was ostensibly forced into showbusiness by a pushy and loveless stage mother. Maïwenn managed to snag some notable roles (she played Isabelle Adjani’s younger self in *One Deadly Summer*), but eventually met Besson when he was a famous film director, when he was aged 32. They were married in 1992, and their daughter, Shanna, was born the year after. She says that this formative

to act as prosecutor'

COVER: HUBERT BOESL/ALAMY. BELOW: STEPHANIE BRANCHU; STEPHANE CARDINALE/SYGMA VIA GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY







relationship has been consistently misconstrued by the media.

"Luc Besson was fantastic with me," she says. "What I haven't told you is that there was a lot of violence in my childhood, in the relationship with my mother. And when I met Luc it was the first time that I ever had the feeling that I was being seen for who I was.

"When I met him he rescued me from my mother. And what really hurt me was when I realised that people could only see the number. The age. Never once did they actually believe in our love story. They always tried to make me feel that I was only in it because he was a powerful man who had money, and I was only interested in what he could bring me. Because he was a movie director and I was an actress. They never felt, and respected the fact, that I was in love and he was in love."

The seeds of directorial ambitions were planted in Maïwenn when she shot the making-of documentary for *Leon*, and soon she began to juggle acting roles, such as the blue-skinned pop opera singing diva in *The Fifth Element*, with more demanding work behind the camera.

She made, for instance, the nakedly autobiographical *Pardonnez-moi*, which features an abusive mother and a nightmarish family. She won the Cannes Film Festival jury award for a controversial cop drama about hunting paedophiles, called *Polisse*. And she made the edgy melodrama *Mon Roi*, which foregrounded Vincent Cassel in the role of a duplicitous, drug-taking womaniser and husband.

In each case the films have a push-me-pull-you quality that never allows the viewer to relax into their ideological comfort zones. They're always questioning, always rooting about in the difficulties. In *Mon Roi*, for instance, some critics were scandalised that Maïwenn was asking us to care deeply for Cassel's character, and to see him in the context of worthy husband material.

> **The way Jeanne is despised is the way the industry made me feel**

Off screen, she split with Besson soon after *The Fifth Element* (he left her for that film's star Milla Jovovich), and married the property developer Jean-Yves Le Fur. They divorced in 2004 but she clarifies today that they're back together, although not remarried.

Their relationship, however, has been dragged back into the spotlight by Variety's highly publicised "spitting story" — the French journalist Edwy Plenel claims that Maïwenn spat at him because he was investigating sexual abuse allegations against Besson.

I ask her, for a start, if the spitting is true. Did she, as is claimed, walk over to the journalist in a Paris restaurant in March, and hold him firm and spit into his face?

"This is true," she says, casual as anything. "This is true. But nobody knows why I did it. It's not the right moment to talk about why I did it. I will maybe talk about it later. But I know why I did it."

Meanwhile, she says that she has no concrete plans for her next movie, although, "I really want to make something the opposite of *Jeanne du Barry*, like an action movie, or a police drama, something full of testosterone".

She says that even despite the awards and commercial success she doubts herself and her abilities constantly. "Whenever I make a film there are always two voices in my head. One of them says, 'Come on, be confident! You've won prizes! You have recognition!' But the other voice says, 'Have you really seen yourself? Are you listening to yourself? Have you seen what you've made?'

"And, unfortunately I feel that this second voice is becoming louder as I get older." It is, she adds, something to do with her mother. "She always told me that I was good for nothing." And then she notes that she has been going to therapy for more than 20 years. "My therapist has become very rich because of me," she says, snorting back laughter.

And as for the controversies that continue to surround her, and will inevitably follow her into her next project as sure as the sky is blue and prosecutors thrive on social media?

"My movies polarise," she says, smiling. "And sometimes that makes me laugh. There's a saying, do you know it? 'You can say good or bad things about me, just spell my name correctly.' I think the same thing. Just spell my name correctly."

***Jeanne du Barry* will be released in the UK later this year**

Must we revisit Boris Johnson's days in office?



By James Marriott

podcasts

Unprecedented
★★★☆☆

Oh hurrah. An opportunity to relive one of the most depressing episodes in British political history. Guto Harri was Boris Johnson's director of communications at Downing Street. Now, like everybody else in the world, he has a podcast. It's called *Unprecedented*.

The point of it is to spill the beans on Johnson's time in government. Are we interested in these particular beans, though?

The first episode whisks through the well-worn highlights of Johnson's career: Oxford Union, journalism, the mayoralty, getting stuck on a zip wire. On Johnson's time as London mayor, Harri is strangely gushing.

Johnson was transformed from "a charismatic, shaggy-haired so-called buffoon" into "one of the most popular, charismatic mayors London has ever seen". Boris filled London with bikes! He strung a cable car high over the Thames! He hosted the Olympics!

But, you think, what about his failure to tackle the capital's housing crisis? What about the fact he presided over the desecration of its skyline? Harri's optimism perhaps makes more sense when you recall that Johnson's communications director at the time was … one Guto Harri.

However, even a boosterish account of Johnson's career in office leaves one depressed. No amount of excitement at Johnson's charisma can disguise how venal his government was. We hear once again about how when Harri was called to serve in Johnson's flagging Downing Street he and the prime minister broke into a rendition of Gloria Gaynor's song *I Will Survive* and then "burst out laughing".



Guto Harri recalls his "deeply personal" relationship with the former prime minister

Is it funny? Or just more evidence that power was only a game? Harri recalls sentimentally that his relationship with Johnson "is deeply personal. This is a man I met decades earlier at Oxford. We go way back." Did they have a deep relationship, you wonder. Or was Johnson just using Harri the way he used everyone else?

> **Even a boosterish account of his time in office leaves one depressed**

There are some futile attempts to add a sense of world-historical drama. Music thunders portentously as Harri declaims, "I was on the bridge of a battered boat with one of the most controversial prime ministers of all time serving at the helm." But all this just seems to emphasise how unsuited Johnson was to such serious times.

What Harri's podcast does unarguably provide are some intriguing behind-the-scenes glimpses of government at a turbulent time in history. We see Zelensky crooning "All you need is N-love" down the phone to Johnson — a reference to the NLAW missiles the UK sent to Ukraine.

Already much reported is Harri's claim that Johnson wanted to "punch Macron's lights out" after the French president ineffectually tried to dissuade Putin from going to war. Interesting, yes. But also evidence of the shallow, schoolboyish tone of a time in politics I would really rather not think about.

Richard Morrison the arts column

The way this government is treating Ukrainian musicians is inhumane

I have read some weaselly statements from government ministers in my time, but the one issued by Lucy Frazer, the culture secretary, on the day of the Eurovision Song Contest really needs to be publicly shamed. "The British government has been proud to lead global support for Ukrainian culture, sports and arts since the invasion," she said, then went on to claim that the government will be "assisting the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine to share their music as they tour the UK this year".

Well, it's true that the beleaguered orchestra, which is desperately trying to keep music alive in Kyiv, plans to tour 17 British venues this autumn. That would be the biggest UK visit in its 105-year-old history and a morale-boosting showcase for Ukraine's long classical music tradition.

However, the notion that our government is "assisting" is far from reality. In fact, the orchestra has been told that, if it wants to come here, all 90 musicians will need to make a bus journey from Kyiv to Warsaw and back (12 hours each way) to get UK work visas. Why? Because apparently we don't have anyone in Kyiv who can issue the visas there.

That's ridiculous. Asking the Ukrainians to make this journey is not only impractical, it borders on the inhumane. These are musicians struggling to feed their families and perform daily in a war zone. Indeed, the conditions under which they give concerts in Kyiv are reminiscent of London concerts during the Blitz. When a siren goes off, orchestra and audience decamp to an air-raid shelter beneath the concert hall where the musicians continue to entertain the public with Bach sonatas.

STEVE MORGAN FOR THE TIMES



The National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine must travel to Warsaw for British visas before they can perform here

The orchestra has received exemplary support from the UK music industry. The tour is being organised by a respected promoter (IMG) with the backing of the Association of British Orchestras. Yet there's now a real possibility that the Ukrainians won't be able to come because of our government's bureaucratic intransigence.

The obvious answer is that the government should, in these exceptional circumstances, waive the visa requirement, as it did when a Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra played here last summer. Or, failing that, the Foreign Office should dispatch someone to Kyiv to issue visas on the spot. Give me a rubber stamp and a stapler and I will do it myself. Even arts journalists can make themselves useful occasionally.

Either way, our culture secretary should stop boasting about supporting Ukrainian culture when her government is actually being obstructive. Her words suggest she either doesn't have a clue what's going on, or is being flagrantly hypocritical. Neither is a sacking offence in this particular government, I know, but it's not a good look either.

Equity wants to put an end to grotty theatrical digs. Good luck

Cockroaches. Mouldy furniture. Damp walls. Unwashed cutlery. Seedy locations. And dodgy hosts who knock on your bedroom door late at night and tell you about their failed marriages or proposition you for remedial nookie.

No, that's not me advertising on Airbnb. It's some of the many problems encountered by touring actors staying in those time-honoured B&Bs known as theatrical digs. Now the actors' union Equity wants a "code of conduct" for people offering accommodation to thespians on the road. It also wants producers and theatres to raise subsistence rates (which are as low as £280 a week) so actors are not forced to stay in the cheapest dumps available.

Of course, anecdotes about digs are woven into theatre folklore. Every seasoned actor will have dozens, embellished afresh with each telling. "In one place my bedroom door got stuck, with me inside," an actor friend tells me. "I thought the host had locked me in and started to panic, imagining I was heading for something like the dungeon scene in *Pulp Fiction*. So I threw the mattress out of the window, knotted the bedsheets, dropped down to the ground, ran inside the house again, left 20 quid on the kitchen table, shouted, 'Your mattress is in the back garden,' and scarpered."

True, there are many caring landladies who dote on actors, display photos of famous people they have hosted, buy tickets for all the shows and love to talk showbiz long into the night. But that can be a problem too, particularly for young actors who just want privacy, an internet connection and a clean room.

I sympathise with them. To work in such an insecure profession, mostly for peanuts, living out of a suitcase, is tough enough. To return from the theatre each night to squalid lodgings must be demoralising. Especially if the theatre itself also has grotty backstage facilities, as many do.

What's to be done, though? The more budget spent on subsistence, the less for new shows. So actors lose out either way. It's been a perennial problem in the theatre since — oh, I don't know, probably the late 1540s. Good luck to Equity, trying to solve it now.

All along the corridor

Exactly 300 years ago, George Frideric Handel moved into 25 Brook Street in Mayfair, his London home for the next 36 years. It reopened this week after a wonderful £3 million restoration; all the money privately raised. Elegantly furnished with paintings (including a Canaletto), musical instruments, wigs and quills, it now looks as scholars imagine it did in Handel's day, right down to a basement kitchen with a giant spit for roasting hogs.

Except there's one big difference. A corridor now connects No 25 with 23, where Jimi Hendrix lived in 1969. That, too, has been lovingly restored and is just as fascinating a shrine to an equally charismatic musician. The whole experience (to use a Hendrix word) is now called Handel Hendrix House and is well worth an hour of your time. Not least because it makes you ponder how much duller London's cultural history would be without what we now disparagingly call "economic migrants".

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THE CRITICS

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Sarfraz Manzoor meets Graham Nash p10

Carol Midgley is appalled by a Rolf Harris doc p15

This patch-up job is going nowhere fast

GIULIA PARMIGIANI/UNIVERSAL PICTURES



the big film

The troubled, bloated franchise is out of gas after its latest offering, says Kevin Maher

The wittiest line, unintentionally so, in this latest head-wrecking Hollywood rev-gasm, is delivered by the "feisty" hacker Ramsey (Nathalie Emmanuel). She's the one who does the IT for the ever-expanding gang of fast and furious mobile heist operatives, now in their tenth iteration. Scanning through her laptop in an underground garage below the Shard belonging to Jason Statham's former government agent Shaw, Ramsey howls: "Our money has been split into different accounts and sent around the world!"

Anyone who has kept even half an eye on the backstory to this troubled and vastly expensive production will get a good giggle here. Because one reason why its budget rocketed far beyond the $300 million mark is that the salary demands of its returning cast, including Vin Diesel, Charlize Theron and Michelle Rodriguez, eventually exceeded, according to The Hollywood Reporter, $100 million. No wonder they're appalled to see their money fired across the cybersphere. Why else would they sign on for this jaded and lackadaisical patch-up job?

And it is very messy. More so than usual. Stuff just happens. There's a big chase in Rio, then a big chase in Rome, and there's a break for a barbecue in LA, where Diesel's dead-eyed troglodyte Dominic says: "Without family, you got nothing!"

Fast X
12A, 141min
★★☆☆☆



Fast, furious, forgettable: Vin Diesel and Daniela Melchior

Then there's another chase, and then Theron's former evil hacker Cipher has a pointless punch-up with Rodriguez's former amnesiac car-jacker, Letty.

That fight makes no narrative sense — indeed Rodriguez recently revealed, half-boasting, that she and Theron shot it without any film-makers present. That's because the original director, Justin Lin, a veteran of five *Fast & Furious* instalments, stormed off after clashing with Diesel and claiming that making the film was "not worth my mental health". He was replaced by the French journeyman Louis Leterrier, who never met a project he couldn't surround with a deadening gunk of emotional formaldehyde — see also his *The Incredible Hulk* and *Clash of the Titans*.

What remains of a threadbare plot is visible in the character of Dante (Jason Momoa), the son of a Brazilian mobster brutally slain by Dom's flying car way back in *Fast Five* (2011). And so — naturally, because you got nothing without family — Dante employs an army of hopeless helmet-clad henchmen in an attempt to ruin Dom's life.

Or, as Theron's Cipher warns, with the kind of line that might have worked in a dramatically coherent movie, "There's a war coming! And everyone you love will be destroyed!" Or, more accurately, there's some car chases coming. And it's highly unlikely that anyone you love will be destroyed because they're all on such good wonga that their management teams will ensure they return for another bonanza pay day in *Fast XI*.

At least Momoa, bless him, seems to be having fun, playing Dante as a cross between Cruella de Vil and William Hurt in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, with silk flowing kimonos, smudged lipstick and gasping catchphrases ("Peekaboo!" "Enchanté!"). According to the *Fast* team, Momoa is boldly playing "against type", and providing Diesel's Dom with the ultimate nemesis.

Because, let's face it, there's nothing more likely to make our Dom puke into his carburettor than the sight of a big flouncy man who doesn't talk incessantly about family.

Elsewhere, Brie Larson pops up in a thankless non-role as the daughter of Kurt Russell's agency boss Mr Nobody — hey, she's family! And Helen Mirren has a line or two as Shaw's Cockney mobster mother — also family. The action, which is the ne plus ultra of the entire franchise, is so CGI-heavy that it wouldn't appear out of place in the next *Toy Story*. Want to see a big round CGI bomb-ball rolling through CGI Rome and causing CGI destruction? Or what about a CGI car racing down the steep CGI façade of a CGI dam, just ahead of a CGI fireball? It's all here!

The shame is that *Fast X* is as poor as it is inevitable. It's the logical culmination of a franchise that began as lithe and nifty, slowly became bloated and now, like Elvis, has died on the toilet.

In cinemas

classic film of the week

Local Hero (1983)
12A, 111min
★★★★★

British-American culture clashes have powered so many classics, from *Two's Company* to *An American Werewolf in London* to *Ted Lasso*. Yet more winning than all of those is this Scottish-American charmer, celebrating its 40th birthday, in which a Texan oil man (Peter Riegert) is sent by his star-gazing boss (Burt Lancaster) to buy a Highland village to make way for a refinery.

Riegert's "Mac" MacIntyre, picked for the job largely because of his Scottish surname, of course falls for the eccentric locals, who range from Denis Lawson's hotel owner to a woman (Jenny Seagrove) who may be a real-life mermaid.



Peter Capaldi and Peter Riegert

Directed by Bill Forsyth to follow his equally sweet debut, *Gregory's Girl*, the film has a gorgeous soundtrack by Mark Knopfler, especially the rousing *Going Home (Theme of the Local Hero)*, which has become the anthem of Newcastle United. Ed Potton

In selected cinemas

film reviews

TAKASHI SEIDA/AP



Joaquin Phoenix (centre, with Nathan Lane and Amy Ryan) stars as a neurotic middle-aged virgin in Ari Aster's introspective film Beau Is Afraid

A tedious, self-indulgent mess

Ari Aster, the new king of cerebral horror, has produced a dud, says Kevin Maher

Beau Is Afraid
15, 178min
★☆☆☆☆

Well, it was fun while it lasted. For a while Ari Aster was the next big thing. With the chilling *Hereditary* and the masterly *Midsommar*, he became the poster boy for a new genre widely celebrated as "cerebral horror". Alas, the cerebrum has been fully abandoned here and all focus is instead firmly on the navel in an esoteric, introspective non-film that's as outlandishly self-indulgent as it is tedious.

The Oscar-winner Joaquin Phoenix is unleashed in all the wrong ways and appears to be channelling both Stan Laurel and Beaker from *The Muppets* as Beau Wassermann, a neurotic middle-aged shut-in with a mommy complex. Beau screams a lot, faints even more, vomits on laptops and is afraid to leave his decrepit downtown apartment or embrace reality. He has never had sex because his father died of a heart attack while conceiving him and Beau fears that the propensity for fatal orgasms could run in the blood. See. Even remembering it makes me want to bang my skull repeatedly against the keyboard.

Unfortunately for Beau, and for sentient cinemagoers everywhere, his domineering mother (Patti LuPone) dies during the opening scenes, necessitating a tortuous funeral-bound crawl across a dystopian America. During the journey our 50-year-old virgin will faint some more and meet an array of odious human beings, including Nathan Lane's pill-pushing doctor and Hayley Squires as Penelope, a new age survivalist and enthusiastic member of the "Orphans of the Forest Theatre Company". Yes, they live in the forest and put on plays.

It's breathtakingly annoying. It's like a Charlie Kaufman screenplay that never made it past the first edit, or a sophomoric reimagining of Samuel Beckett, with all the profundity removed and just the boring bits left. No, in fact, it's like being cornered at a party by a moron who won't stop describing this zany dream he's just had, including the climactic appearance of a giant homicidal "penis monster". Yes, there is literally a giant penis that kills. So, no, not good.

In cinemas

Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret
PG, 106min
★★★★☆

Bras, menstruation and comparative religious studies are on the menu in this deeply lovely adaptation of the Judy Blume standard from 1970.

Abby Ryder Fortson (*Ant-Man*) is a revelation as 11-year-old Margaret Simon, a contented New Yorker dragged to suburban New Jersey just as she's on the cusp of "womanhood". A new school clique and the bullying of alpha female Nancy Wheeler (Elle Graham) exacerbate Margaret's desire to embrace full-blown puberty — cue earnest chest-flexing repetitions with chants of: "We must, we must increase our bust!"

But the body obsession, in Margaret's case, is merely a cover for a growing existential ache that leads her to question the inherited Christianity of her mother (Rachel McAdams) and the Jewishness of her father (Benny Safdie).

It's nimbly directed by Kelly Fremon Craig, with an occasionally heavy hand of wholesomeness. But Fortson saves the day, carrying the entire film with physical comedy, witty one-liners and tear-stained monologues. It's a star-making turn.

In cinemas

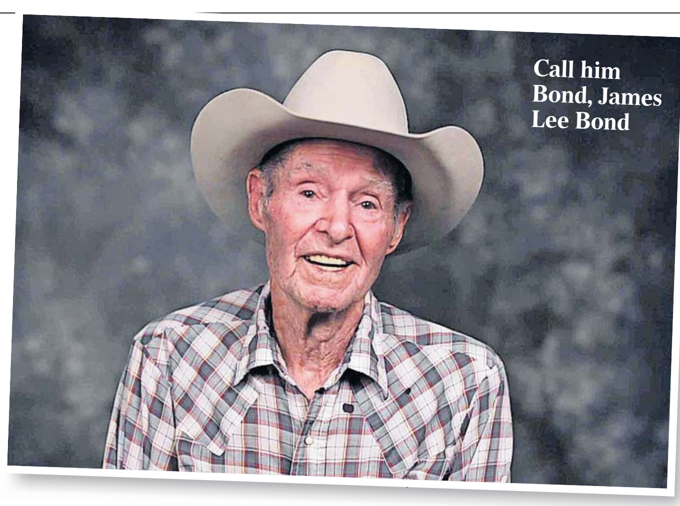


Rachel McAdams and Abby Ryder Fortson in the Judy Blume adaptation

The Other Fellow
15, 80min
★★☆☆☆

The cheeky premise of this feature documentary from the Australian film-maker Matthew Bauer describes a thought-provoking study of several men called James Bond. How has the famous name affected them? Has it been a curse? A boon? An opportunity?

That premise, coupled with curiosity and goodwill, buys about 20 minutes of running time before the film becomes unsatisfying, built on random ideas and tiny snatches of disparate biographies flung like confetti over an arbitrary narrative.



Call him Bond, James Lee Bond

A couple of scenes with the retired Texan oilman James Lee Bond are followed by some time with the New York theatre director Bond, and a Guyanese Bond, and so on.

There's a sequence examining the original ornithologist Bond who inspired Fleming, before Bauer eventually bends his premise to breaking point by focusing on Swedish super-fan Gunnar Schäfer who, in 2007, formally changed his name to Nils Gunnar Bond James Schäfer. Which isn't quite the same thing.

In cinemas

Nam June Paik: Moon Is the Oldest TV
12, 109min
★★★☆☆

The pioneering video artist Nam June Paik is the subject of this engrossing documentary that argues the case for his status as a visionary who predicted the interconnectivity of the digital age.

The director, Amanda Kim, mixes archive material and contemporary interviews with readings of Paik's artistic theorising from *Minari*'s Steven Yeun to trace the story of "the foremost video artist in the world".

Starting with a difficult childhood in Japanese-occupied Korea, where speaking Korean was an arrest-worthy offence, Paik is described as someone who wrestled endlessly with the subject of communication and turned to video art to speak in the broadest, syntax-free terms. The climax of the film relives his groundbreaking yet technically disastrous global satellite broadcast from 1984, *Good Morning Mr Orwell*, featuring an increasingly sozzled George Plimpton.

Yes, the documentary is structurally formulaic and a tad Wikipedia-y, but Paik's eccentric provocations are so fascinating that they distract from the lack of invention elsewhere.

In cinemas

Remarkable songs of life and death

Paul Simon, 81, has made an album worth worshipping, says Will Hodgkinson


CHRISTOPHER POLK/CBS VIA GETTY IMAGES

When Simon and Garfunkel came out with *The Sound of Silence* in 1965 it was a moment of purity set apart from, yet reflective of, the generational mood at the time. Here were two presentable young men singing profound words of alienation and longing in a song that captured not only the solemn introspection of folk music but also the sacred beauty of cantor singing. Given that Paul Simon was only 21 when he wrote it, *The Sound of Silence* was the Sixties equivalent of *The Catcher in the Rye*, the cry of a young man looking at life and finding it wanting. Now, at 81, Simon has made an album that sounds like an accompaniment to *The Sound of Silence*; a continuous 33-minute piece, divided into seven movements, which looks back at life, and towards death, in the absence of the certainty of belief.

Simon says that *Seven Psalms* came to him one night in a dream in 2019, which he then fleshed out by waking up on a series of mornings to write lyrics between 3.30 and 5am. There are no songs as such, nothing as structured as choruses or verses, just Simon's flowing but precise acoustic guitar bringing a baroque, church-like mood to back up words such as "the Lord is my engineer, the Lord is the earth I ride on". This isn't straightforward religious music, more the reflections of someone who has spent a lifetime thinking about these things without ever finding the answers.

"The Covid virus is the Lord," he sings on *Love Is Like a Braid*, not an opinion that will go down well with America's fundamentalist Christians. Later on he captures the joys of indulging in youthful misery when nothing is really wrong by confessing: "I lived a life of pleasant sorrows until the real deal came. Broke me like a twig in a winter gale."

There is no clear meaning to all this, which makes sense, given that dreams are by their nature unclear. But just as a dream can affect your mood for the whole day, so do Simon's poetic, mysterious words sink deep into the psyche. "I, the last in line, hoping the gates won't be closed," he sings on *Your Forgiveness*, as honest an admission of a fear of death as any baby boomer artist has come up with.

"He doesn't talk much any more. Just to the voices in his head," sings Simon's wife, Edie Brickell, on *The Sacred Harp*, a gloomy image to have of one of the great communicators of modern times. And Simon tries to make sense of his belief, or lack of it, throughout. "Are we all just trial and error, just one in a billion in the universe?" he asks. The answer never comes.

Seven Psalms ends, fittingly, with acceptance of life's finite nature. "Heaven is beautiful. It's almost like home," reassures Brickell in ethereal tones on *Wait*, as Simon hopes for a dreamless transition into the beyond. Simon & Garfunkel taught a generation how to deal with a postwar world that made little sense to them, and now Simon is teaching that same generation how to face up to the end. It is a remarkable album.

pop

Paul Simon
Seven Psalms
Legacy
★★★★★

T
Jazz review
Five stars for the American drummer Joe Farnsworth's latest at thetimes.co.uk

Galen & Paul
Can We Do Tomorrow Another Day?
Sony
★★★★☆

A European mood, romantic but melancholic, filters through a delightful album by Galen Ayers, daughter of Soft Machine's Kevin Ayers, and the Clash's Paul Simonon. While Ayers, who grew up in Mallorca, brings her light, pure tones to the Spanish-language songs *Mi Camino* and *No Es Necesario*, Simonon's lived-in growl adds the voice of experience to *Lonely Town* and *Room at the Top*, which have a haunted, out-of-season feel. There is a touch of playful flirtation between the two that's reminiscent of Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazlewood, and the melodies are strong and simple enough to hum along to — *I've Never Had a Good Time.....in Paris* is a singalong made for annoying the French.

Lewis Capaldi
Broken by Desire to Be Heavenly Sent
EMI
★★★☆☆



There is a massive disparity between the Scottish belter's music, which is earnest and sentimental, and the way he approaches fame with the carefree humour of a working-class Glaswegian who can't believe his luck. His second album continues where his first, hugely successful one left off: lots of sad piano parts, familiar words on everlasting love and the pain of heartbreak delivered in a Joe Cocker-like roar, and the general suspicion that these songs are going to be absolutely everywhere over the next year or so. Only on *The Pretender* does he break out of the mould, addressing his clownish persona by singing, "I can wear a million faces because I don't like the one underneath." Capaldi is a funny, self-aware guy. It is a shame we couldn't see more of that character soaking into these pro-level examples of ruthlessly populist songwriting.

Taking a bow for the maddeningly uneven Florence Price

Reactions to the top album featuring two violin concertos by the newly rediscovered Florence Price, played by the personable American violinist Randall Goosby, may follow the course of a zigzag. Myself, I headed downhill immediately on reading the booklet note, which is more intent on letting Goosby hug himself than feeding basic information about the works performed, including the concertos' dates of composition (1939, 1952).

The trajectory swiftly reversed once Goosby, *right*, launched into the programme's introductory piece: Bruch's crowd-pleasing Violin Concerto No 1. His playing was so warm and soulful, with no hint of narcissistic preening. Interplay with the conductor, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and the Philadelphia Orchestra was clean and natural. What was there not to enjoy?

Then came Price, the first African-American woman to have made any headway in the 1930s with major American orchestras, and the downward journey, alas, resumed. Bruch's No 1 was concise; Price's, cast in her usual spiritual-infused post-Romantic idiom, spread and fidgeted all over the place, reaching cogency only in the central andante's reverie.

My zigzagging reversed in her much shorter 1952 concerto, helped by imaginative orchestration (one of Price's best traits), only for progress to be stalled by patches of twiddly violin writing and a clumsy closing gesture cruelly damaging to the tenderly beautiful preceding bars. This album is both well-meaning and maddening, and Goosby and Nézet-Séguin glide over the bumps as best they can, nothing but love in their hearts.

Forging a musical career and identity in the 20th century was far easier for the Polish composer Grazyna Bacewicz, whose energetic, striding music always attracted attention. Following a survey of her solo piano music, the dashing pianist Peter Jablonski now offers her two concertos, with lively support from the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra and conductor Nicholas Collon. The most individual work on this stimulating release is the double piano concerto of 1966, where Elisabeth Brauss joins Jablonski for modernist fun with timbres and gestures that should never leave listeners scratching their heads. *Music for Strings, Trumpets and Percussion*, from 1958, is also featured: sparky, pungent and Bacewicz to a T. Or should I say B?
Geoff Brown

classical

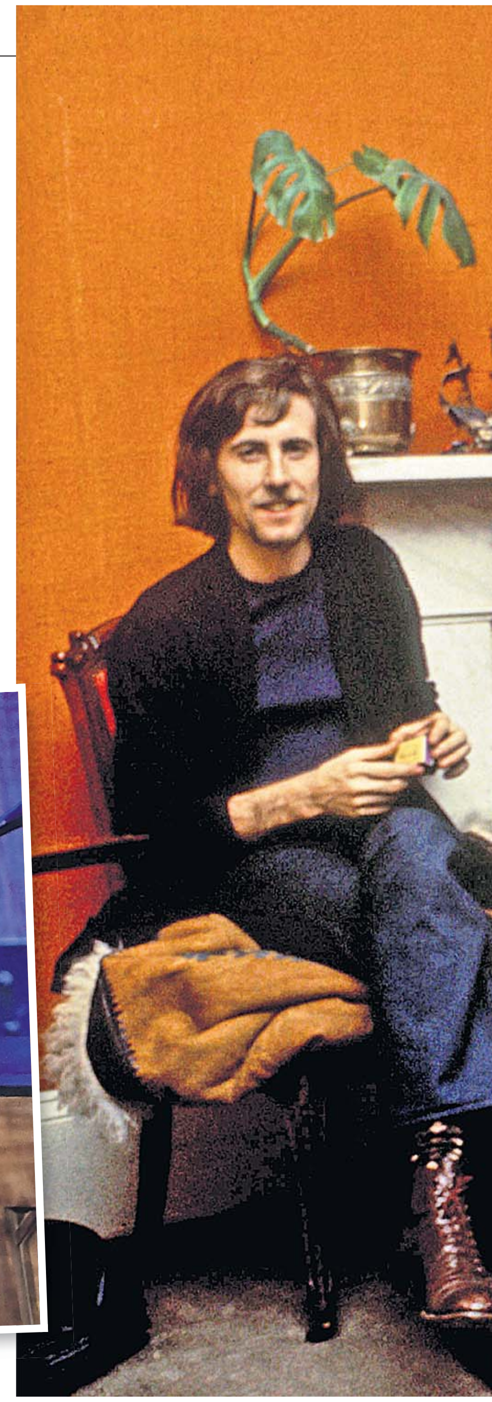
Randall Goosby
Florence Price
Decca
★★★☆☆

Peter Jablonski
Grazyna Bacewicz
Ondine
★★★★☆



pop

‘In 50 years people will remember the Beatles, Hendrix, Dylan and Joni — but not us’



Graham Nash on Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, his romance with Joni Mitchell and his new album. By Sarfraz Manzoor

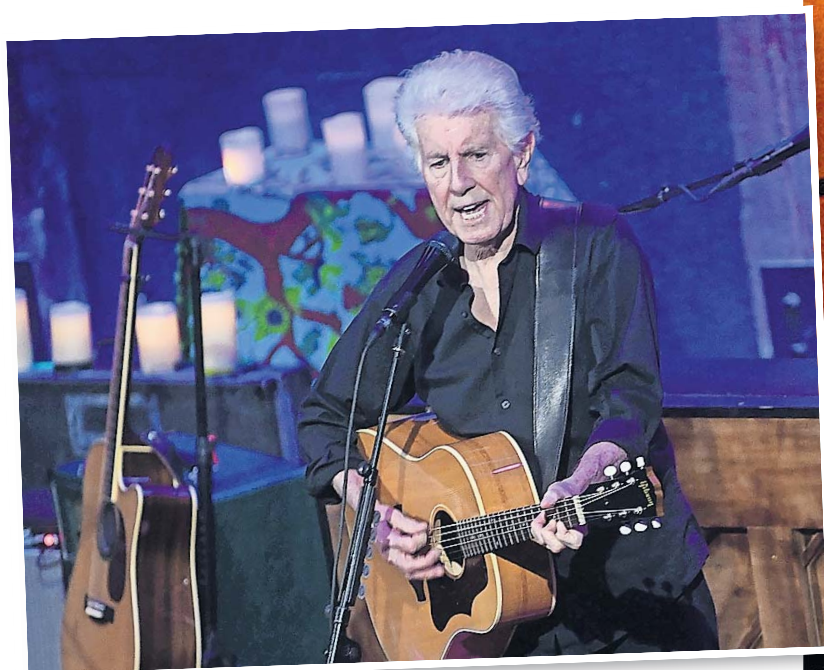
It is a sunny spring morning in New York and I am having breakfast with Graham Nash in a Ukrainian café not far from the Lower East Side apartment where he lives. He is 81, but after 60 years as a recording artist and two inductions into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame — as a member of the Hollies and Crosby, Stills and Nash — he shows no sign of slowing down.

We are meeting because Nash has a new solo album, *Now*, which he is set to release with a tour to follow later in the year. “This is probably my most personal album,” Nash says. “Every single one of the songs is autobiographical. I only write for me.”

Nash was born into a working-class family in Blackpool during the Second World War. His mother was evacuated there while Manchester was being bombed. The family returned to Salford, and when Nash was five a new boy called Allan Clarke joined the class at Ordsall Board School. The boys bonded over a love of music.

When Bill Haley and the Comets came to Manchester in early 1957 Nash and Clarke managed to get tickets. “I’ll never forget the opening of that show,” he says. “Me and Allan were on the first door of the balcony when all of a sudden the spotlight came on in the middle of the curtains and a head came through and said, ‘See you later, alligator!’ — and my life changed.”

Nash and Clarke formed a band and, performing as Ricky & Dane, in October 1958 were on the same bill at the Ardwick Hippodrome in Manchester as Johnny and the Moondogs, a Liverpool three-piece consisting of Paul McCartney, John Lennon and George Harrison.



Graham Nash playing in New York this week

Later on, now performing as the Hollies after their idol Buddy Holly, with hits such as *Carrie Anne, On a Carousel* and *Bus Stop,* they would become one of the most successful British bands of the Sixties. Their songs spent 231 weeks in the UK singles charts during that decade. “If you had a guitar and you could play three chords, girls would like you for that,” Nash says. “It was a very attractive way to attract girls.” This did not always end well. “I saw this beautiful woman and it was somebody’s girlfriend. The guy hit me in the mouth full-on and broke my teeth.”

In February 1963 the Hollies

Ruth Davidson speaks to Rankin

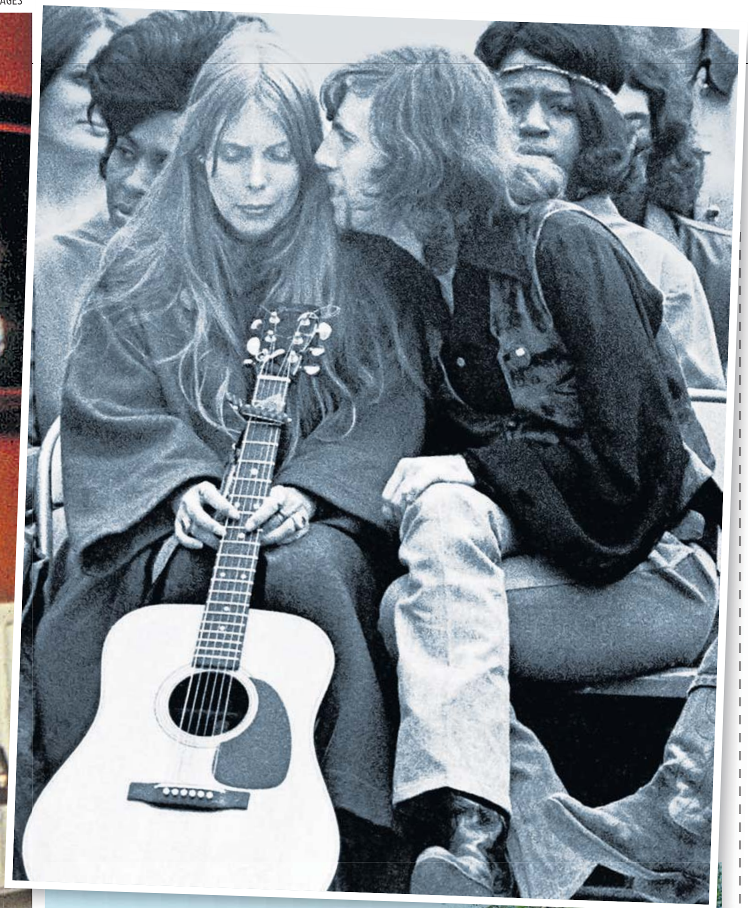


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supported the Beatles at the Cavern, and Nash was present in 1967 when the Fab Four recorded *All You Need Is Love,* said to be the first global live TV broadcast of any kind. Did he feel that the Hollies were in competition with the Beatles? "You couldn't beat the Beatles. There was no competition because they were so far ahead of everybody — you would be foolish to try," he says.

The Beatles had conquered the US after appearing on *The Ed Sullivan Show* in 1964. The next year Nash came to New York for the first time when the Hollies performed at the Brooklyn Paramount Theatre on a bill headlined by Little Richard. "I

"You couldn't beat the Beatles. You would be foolish to try

remember watching the end of Little Richard's show and he came off screaming: 'Don't you ever play your f***ing guitar behind your head again, don't you upstage me, I'm f***ing Little Richard.'" The name of the teenage guitarist Little Richard was accusing of upstaging him was Jimi Hendrix.

The Hollies played Los Angeles three years later at a legendary gig at the Whiskey-A-Go-Go attended by members of the Mamas & the Papas, the Byrds, the Beach Boys, Buffalo Springfield and the Doors. It was at this concert that Nash would meet David Crosby and Stephen Stills, an encounter that would lead to him leaving Britain and ditching the Hollies.

"I felt a little guilty at leaving Allan Clarke behind because I had known him since I was six," Nash admits now. The Hollies continued without Nash, and an incarnation of the band with neither Nash nor Clarke still tour to this day. Meanwhile, Nash moved to Laurel Canyon in Los Angeles. What was Laurel Canyon like in those days? "Sunshine, music, beautiful women, interesting drugs," he says. "Yeah, Laurel Canyon was incredible."

Crosby, Stills and Nash played their first live show in Chicago in 1969 (Joni Mitchell was their opening act). Their second live performance was at Woodstock. "We went on stage around two in the morning. I'll never forget trying to sing *Guinnevere* with one acoustic guitar and two voices to almost a half a million people," Nash says.

Four months later Crosby, Stills and Nash played at Altamont, the notorious all-day concert headlined by the Rolling Stones where the Hell's Angels had been recruited as security, with disastrous results. "We knew that it was a shit show so we did our

Above left: Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young in 1969 — Graham Nash, far left, with David Crosby and drummer Dallas Taylor standing, and Stephen Stills and Neil Young sitting. Above, from top: Nash with Joni Mitchell in 1969; the Hollies, with Nash on left, in 1966

set and we got out of there. We were so happy that it was the Stones' show — I'm pleased that not a lot of people know that we were there too," Nash says.

Nash's songs have documented his love life over the decades. The Hollies' 1968 song *Jennifer Eccles* was partly named after Rose Eccles, his first wife. When he moved to the US Nash met and fell in love with Mitchell, and the couple lived together at her home in Laurel Canyon.

One morning Mitchell walked through the front door with a new vase she had bought. "I went through the front door and said: 'Why don't I light a fire, and you put some flowers in that vase you bought today,'" he says. It took less than two hours for this conversation to evolve into the lyrics of *Our House,* which would go on to become one of Crosby, Stills and Nash's most beloved songs.

Nash reunited with Mitchell weeks before our meeting, when she was presented with the Gershwin prize for popular song. "I think in 50 years when people look back at what happened in the late 1960s and early 1970s they will remember the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan and they'll remember Joni," he says. "I don't think they'll ever remember CSNY [Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young] at all, Neil [Young], maybe." Nash performed *A Case of You* at the Gershwin prize event. "Most of her life Joni has felt underappreciated. I think that night she really truly understood how loved she is," he said.

Mitchell and Nash split after an intense period of bickering. A tipping point for Mitchell is said to have been when she poured a bowl of cornflakes over his head in a hotel room in Copenhagen during an argument about his lack of respect for America. It apparently culminated in Nash putting her over his knee and spanking her. Soon after, she left him.

It was a break-up documented by both of them: Nash on his albums *Songs for Beginners* and *Wild Tales* and Mitchell on her 1971 song *River,* which includes the line: "I'm so hard to handle, I'm selfish and I'm sad."

Nash married Susan Sennett in 1977 and left her after 38 years of marriage and three children to start a relationship with Amy Grantham, a New York artist 37 years his junior.

There are five songs dedicated to Amy on the new record. They met in New York when she went to see Crosby, Stills and Nash play at the Beacon Theatre in 2014. "The moment I shook her hand, I knew there was something very special going on." Sennett died from cancer not long after she and Nash divorced.

"My life has been insane, it's been completely insane

During our conversation Nash is relentlessly upbeat. "I very much feel like I'm being reborn," he says. Yet no one gets to 81 unscarred. Nash's adult children no longer speak to him. That must be painful, I suggest. "Yes it's painful, and it will work itself out," he says. As Nash continually reminded me during our conversation, at 81 time is not on his side.

"I know I am coming to the end of my life," he says. "I feel very healthy, I feel very strong, I want to be around for another 20 years but I might drop dead in the middle of this conversation. Look what happened to David."

In January his former band mate David Crosby died and it is clear that he is still mourning his friend. "I'm incredibly sad, I miss the music, I miss the man," he says. "At the end we were actually talking, he left me a voicemail saying that he wanted to apologise for shooting out his mouth. I set up a FaceTime time so we could see each other.

"It was supposed to be two o'clock my time, which is 11 o'clock his time in Los Angeles, and I waited, and I waited, and he never called back, and then he was dead." What would he have said if that conversation had happened? "I would have accepted his apology," he says. "I would have said, 'Hey, I have a song I want you to sing on,' and sent it to him, and started again."

We have been talking for close to two hours and I remind Nash of a line from the opening song on his new album where he is sings "When all is said and done what a life I've lived".

"My life has been insane, it's been completely insane," he says, smiling broadly. "I'm looking back at it now and I'm going: 'Holy shit! Did that really happen? Did this really happen to me?'"

FIRST NIGHT

the best critics on the top shows of the week

theatre

Bleak Expectations
Criterion, W1
★★★☆☆

It's the rarest of parodies that can sustain itself beyond the length of a sketch or, at a push, a sitcom. Mark Evans's lovingly ludicrous rip on Charles Dickens did, admittedly, extend to 30 half-hour episodes when it ran on Radio 4 from 2007-12. Yet for all this stage adaptation's jollity scene by scene, for all the lustful playing of its cast of eight, this is insistently jokey and regrettably long. Two hours is a lot of time to spend amid larger than life characters with floridly descriptive names such as Bakewell Havertwitch, Skinflint Parsimonious and Ripely Fecund. They populate a riches-to-rags-to-riches yarn that is a compendium of Dickensian tropes.

Dom Hodson mixes sincerity and silliness as our hero, Pip Bin. Pip is sent by his evil ward Gently Benevolent (an impressively outsized John Hopkins) to a boarding school, St Bastard's, with a homicidal headmaster called Wackwell Hardthrasher (an eye-popping Marc Pickering). Yet since the story is narrated by an elderly Pip, played by a new guest star each week, we know he will survive and prosper.

Sally Phillips, this week's headliner, doesn't quite work her usual magic here. Perhaps Stephen Fry, Sue Perkins, Julian Clary, Lee Mack, Stephen Mangan, Tom Allen (Pip in the original series), Nish Kumar, Jo Brand, Ben Miller or Alexander Armstrong will fare better. See the website for details of who's on when.

Talking of details, Dickens fans will smile knowingly at the script's tweaked references: "Please, sir, can I have some less?" Those up for high comedy will enjoy some of the touches in Caroline Leslie's capering production, given a playfully lavish design by Katie Lias. But this feels like well-trodden terrain.

The best moments have the most fun with the staging: Pickering swiftly swapping headgear to go from being a nasty judge to playing three gormless jurors, say. The ending is deftly done. I just couldn't help wishing it had come a good half-hour sooner.

Dominic Maxwell
To Sep 3, bleakexpectations.com

ANDREW WHITE



Beyoncé: balancing high-octane dazzle and down-home charm

Queen Bey of the Bay

Starting a British tour in Cardiff, Beyoncé stuns **Will Hodgkinson**

pop

Beyoncé
Principality Stadium, Cardiff
★★★★☆

A Beyoncé show was always going to be a big deal. Just how big it was took some getting used to, with enough dancers to form an unusually glamorous army, a screen that occupied a good chunk of Cardiff, and a megawatt performance from the woman herself that struck the right balance between high-octane dazzle and down-home charm. The Renaissance tour is connected to Beyoncé's 2022 album of the same name, a clubby celebration of black and gay dance culture. This three-hour show took those themes and expanded them into something epic, overblown, captivating.

Beyoncé emerged from the floor amid a cloud of ice, dwarfed by the vast stage in a sparkling silver gown. "This song means more and more to me now that I know how beautiful flaws are," she said of *Flaws And All*; ironic given Beyoncé's whole thing is about flawless prowess, but there was humanity at the heart of it. From there, things just got bigger.

The Renaissance mid-section featured Beyoncé channelling the robot from *Metropolis*, Jane Fonda in *Barbarella* and other visions of futuristic sexiness; she even did a dance routine with two picture frame-wielding robots at one point. And there was a lot happening beyond the woman 60,000 people had come to see: a dance party during the disco funk of *Cuff It*, a 50ft horse (not a real one, that would be terrifying) arriving to the ecstatic house of *Break My Soul*, the backing singers having their own moment with a rendition of Diana Ross's *Love Hangover*.

The concert also demonstrated how out-there some of Beyoncé's biggest hits have been. *Run the World (Girls)* was a militaristic feminist chant as stridently strange as it was dynamic. *Crazy In Love* started as the peerless pop hit we all know and ended up as a jazz odyssey. For a stadium affair, this took a lot of risks.

There were countless costume changes and set pieces, including an Aphrodite shell from which Beyoncé emerged, seemingly naked (but actually in a flesh-coloured body suit) and the world's most camp army tank. It was silver with a glitter finish. Things even got a bit sinister toward the end, with a Jim Morrison quote, "Whoever controls the media controls the mind", and images of mass surveillance heralding Beyoncé singing over a menacing thump on *America Has a Problem*.

Ultimately, though, this was escapism at its best and the finale found her floating over the audience on a silver horse for the uplifting *Summer Renaissance* — charismatic enough to make sense of it all.

Touring to Jun 4. This review appeared in some editions yesterday

classical

BFO/Fischer
Royal Festival Hall
★★★★★

The proof was in the silence, held at the end by the conductor Ivan Fischer as he oh-so-slowly lowered his left hand after the last dying notes faded away. There was a collective stilled hush in the Royal Festival Hall, not only as everyone deserves a moment of quiet after hearing Mahler's tumultuous Ninth Symphony, but also because we needed time to appreciate the remarkable playing of the Budapest Festival Orchestra. It was as if no one wanted to break the spell of the music, and everyone wanted to linger a little longer in the place we'd arrived at, on the edge of life itself.

This performance showed Fischer's Hungarian orchestra at its lucid best, making music with great honesty, whole-heartedness and virtuosity. If Mahler's First Symphony bursts with the freshness of spring and youth, the Ninth, his final complete symphony, is imbued with the wisdom of age, the bitter experience of heartbreak, the acceptance of death. Some conductors match its glut of emotion with a hyper-intense sound, relishing Mahler's nervy traumas, but Fischer gives us something different. There's an unsentimental straightforwardness, a natural ease to his approach that somehow makes it possible, as a listener, to take in the miraculous detail of this 90-minute symphony.

One could point to any of its four movements and exclaim over the flowing tempos, unerring pacing and exquisite phrasing, how Fischer moved between surface chatter and profound depths, cataclysmic breakthroughs and hushed reflections. He took us right inside the symphony, using sound to immerse us in a parallel world. But what was equally remarkable was the sheer beauty and character of the orchestral playing, from the warmth of the massed string sound to the sublime horn solo that seemed to float in from another realm. The standing ovation was fully deserved.

Streamed on Wednesday from Leipzig at arte.tv
Rebecca Franks

theatre

Once on This Island
Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, NW1
★★★★☆

Ola Ince is the young director who added onstage warnings about teenage depression and the patriarchy to *Romeo and Juliet* at the Globe a couple of years ago, so you could be forgiven for wondering what she might inject into a musical about race and class in the French Antilles.

There's no need to be alarmed. Songs and politics are subtly interwoven into this revival of the fable by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, the duo who brought EL Doctorow's *Ragtime* to Broadway. *Once on This Island*, based on a novel by the Trinidadian-born American writer Rosa Guy, is a reworking of the story of *The Little Mermaid*. Ince's version takes place in Haiti, where the poor live in a separate realm to the light-skinned elite. Capricious gods watch over Ti Moune, a peasant girl who falls for Daniel, the scion of a wealthy family, after he is involved in a car crash. She inveigles her way into his glittering world, but comes up against ancestral prejudice.



Anelisa Lamola and Gabrielle Brooks

Gabrielle Brooks is superb in the vocally demanding role of Ti Moune. The other characters and deities are skimpily written, but Stephenson Ardern-Sodje brings quiet charm to the part of self-centred Daniel. Much chortling from some men in the audience when he uttered the line: "Stay the night and show me your powers." The love scene that followed was ingeniously conveyed under billowing drapery.

If this brisk, 90-minute show has a flaw it's that much of the simple tale is told through the lyrics. Given the outdoor acoustics it's possible to miss details. Still, the pastiche score — emphatically delivered by a supple, percussive band — is unfailingly melodic, the rhythms often closer to west Africa than the French Caribbean.

Settling into your seats at Regent's Park you may at first be disappointed to see a Caribbean island represented by a stark expanse of gun-metal grey dotted with pylons. As the piece unfolds, however, the designer Georgia Lowe adds layers of seductive colour, augmented by Jessica Hung Han Yun's subtle lighting. The overall effect is akin to carnival folk art or even the Harlem street scenes of the painter Romare Bearden. Melissa Simon-Hartman's costumes are gorgeous too. On a chilly night, there was colour and passion in the air.

Clive Davis
To Jun 10, openairtheatre.com

first night

theatre

Anna Karenina

Lyceum, Edinburgh
★★☆☆☆

Thinning down Leo Tolstoy's epic love story to two and a half hours for a cast of eight sounds like a tall order. What to do with all those subplots and supporting players, the decadent ball sequences, the haymaking scenes that go on for days? Lesley Hart's adaptation for the Lyceum and Bristol Old Vic tries to have its cake and eat it, skating across the vast surface of Tolstoy's novel, stripping out extraneous digression while remaining loyal to the set pieces. There are some stirring moments in Polina Kalinina's staging, but little in the way of nuance or psychological depth.

One of the problems is Hart's use of an everyday contemporary register, with characters speaking their minds bluntly and profanely. Hearing Dolly (Jamie Marie Leary) swear profusely at her fly-by-night husband, Stiva (Angus Miller), makes for a good laugh, but it sits uneasily with Tolstoy's depiction of a buttoned-up society. We get little sense of why the outburst at the races from Anna (Lindsey Campbell), when she fears for the life of her beloved Count Vronsky (Robert Akodoto), should be so shocking or subversive.

Our engagement with their doomed affair is further inhibited by a production that feels stilted and lacking in rhythm, especially in the opening scenes. While the horse racing sequence is well choreographed, building to its harrowing climax, at key moments Kalinina and her ensemble struggle to get traction or even adequately populate the stage, and there are some awkward interactions between the action in the main portion of Emma Bailey's set design, and a screened-off area upstage. The soundscape created by Xana is effective if overemphatic at times.

Miller is excellent as the feckless Stiva, hopelessly irresponsible although ultimately surprisingly compassionate, and Tallulah Greive shines as Kitty, who refuses to succumb to her humiliation in Moscow society. Campbell rings the changes in the title role, gradually casting off Anna's inhibitions along with the more restrictive fastenings, paddings and trimmings of her dress. It is just a shame that the material strikes such an awkward tone, somewhere between soap and melodrama.

Allan Radcliffe

To Jun 3; Bristol Old Vic, Jun 7-24



THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM

A Chinese curiosity shop

Beautiful items get lost in the sprawl in this exhausting survey, says Laura Freeman

visual art

China's Hidden Century

British Museum
★★★☆☆



Portrait of Lady Li (Lu Xifu's Wife), c1876. Top: a 19th-century jacket with a border of steam ships

I am going to start taking earplugs to exhibitions. Last week, it was the clash of swords at the British Museum's *Luxury and Power: Persia to Greece*. This week, it's zoo sounds at the Hunterian Museum and echoes down the ages at *China's Hidden Century* at the British Museum (again).

I get it: we're in rural China in the 19th century. We don't need the cock-a-doodle-doos. We certainly don't need ghostly Chinese voices, real and imagined, playing in tedious relay. It's like sitting on the top deck of the bus with ten teenagers all streaming TikTok out loud.

This show needs concentration and the muttering doesn't help. It's a big subject — China's "long 19th century" from the accession in 1796 of the fifth emperor of the Qing dynasty, Jiaging, to the abdication in 1912 of the tenth emperor, Puyi, and the dawn of the revolutionary republic — and a big show.

There are, the press release proudly tells us, 300 objects on display. Is this a good thing? Can you do 300 objects justice while keeping track of six emperors — seven if you count the Empress Dowager Cixi — umpteen civil, foreign and opium wars, the court, the military, the status of artists, the rights of women, the economics of global trade and what the fashionable ladies in Peking and Shanghai are wearing this season? One strand would be a wonderful show. As it is, *China's Hidden Century* is like having an encyclopaedia dropped on you from a height.

There are individual pieces of extraordinary beauty. The exhibition is an old Chinese curiosity shop of snuff bottles, puppets, pigeon whistles, sticks of dried deer sinew and seaweed jerky, a mahjong set, a screen embellished with kingfisher feathers, a bamboo, palm and rice-fibre raincoat, children's slippers with tigers on the toes, a pair of embroidered fox-fur earmuffs, headdresses embellished with jade, tourmaline, turquoise and coral and a portrait of Queen Victoria's Pekingese dog, looted during the sacking of the Old Summer Palace near Peking, and named, brazenly, Looty.

What I suggest is trot round the lot, get the gist of the history, then go back and look properly at no more than a dozen things. You could spend all your visit circling around just the blue silk women's jacket embroidered with opera scenes, each delightful vignette done in jewel-coloured threads.

Or you might be drawn to the hanging scrolls decorated with antique vessels made by rubbing — think church-brass rubbing but in 3D — then emphasising with ink. Or perhaps a case of handsome thumb rings worn by Manchu archers and cavalrymen on the hand that pulled the bowstring. Lovely loot, but too much of it.

To Oct 8, britishmuseum.org

opera

The Pearl Fishers

Grand, Leeds
★★★☆☆

The cynic in me says there's a reason the only popular part of Bizet's 1863 opera is the duet *Au fond du temple saint*; nothing else in the piece lives up to the raptures of those intertwined voices. But Opera North has plunged into the murky musical waters to see what else is there — and returned to the surface with a mixed haul.

In a bid to extract the opera from its exoticising, orientalist fantasies and its ancient Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) setting, the director Matthew Eberhardt and the designer Joanna Parker stage their *Pearl Fishers* in an unnamed coastal community in which a monochrome sea glimmers on a video screen. We enter a world that blends the realistic, surreal and symbolic (but only in the Leeds staging — on tour the opera will be performed in concert).

Giant pearls, ranging in size from football to exercise ball to nearly human height, cover the stage, and while a smart idea, they create the odd sensation of being on the seabed. Later they disappear, and the imagery becomes less clear. Ropes writhe on the screen, with snake-like movements, and a man's head appears, but I'm not sure why. A large rope column, with coils tangled like Anish Kapoor's *Orbit* slide, adds a dystopian twist. Whether with shafts of celestial light or floating soap-bubble pearls, imaginative lighting and video bring life to static scenes.

Yet Eberhardt can't do much about his basic ingredients. The plot is a dud, with much of the action reported and remembered rather than seen. And then there's the ridiculous ending.

Still, the soloists — singing in French, wearing loosely period-inspired costumes — do their best to flesh out their characters. Sophia Theodorides's soprano gleams pure and bright as Leila, matched by Nico Darmanin's ardent Nadir and Quirijn de Lang's commanding Zurga. James Creswell makes his presence felt as the villainous priest Nourabad. The chorus at times reached *Peter Grimes*-ian full throttle, at others sounded uncertain. But Matthew Kofi Waldren and his band eke out every fleck of colour from Bizet's score. It's just a shame the final offstage reprise of the hit duet was almost drowned out.

Rebecca Franks

To Jun 2, then touring to Jul 1, operanorth.co.uk

games

The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom

Nintendo Switch
★★★★★



Link has a snazzy new arm in this sequel

To say *The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom* is one of the year's most eagerly awaited games would be a modest statement. Its predecessor, *Breath of the Wild*, is the fourth highest-selling game in Nintendo Switch history, selling almost 30 million copies. The six-year wait for this sequel has been gruelling for gamers, but has it been worth it? Somehow, Nintendo has achieved a feat often thought incomprehensible — it has improved on a game many consider perfect.

Adventure returns to the mystical kingdom of Hyrule, where the series hero, Link, is again thrust into a perilous quest — a princess needs saving, monsters need slaying and mountains need climbing. It's formulaic but enthralling. That is largely due to innovative gameplay that reaches for the sky, quite literally.

If revisiting the sprawling plains and charming villages of Hyrule wasn't enough, Link's journey consists of exploring a wonderfully misty and dreamy realm in the skies, substantially expanding the map size of the game, which is enormous.

It's all beautifully rendered with *Breath of the Wild*'s boldly colourful and rich art style. It's almost too pretty to do anything but stop and stare. However, you won't stay still for long because the world here is like an extraordinary playground to become immersed in, and how you choose to do that is where this game becomes truly inventive.

Link has a snazzy new arm, complete with magical abilities, after a run-in with an angry mummy that replaces the powers available in the last game. They redefine how a player interacts with their surroundings, as now you can merge objects such as wooden planks or logs to craft bridges, climbing frames or whatever bizarre shape you can muster to make travelling across areas such as canyons and rivers much easier. Weapons also benefit from Link's new abilities as he can fuse them with items he finds on his travels.

Quests, side missions and the returning shrines — large temples that host environmental puzzles that are challenging but immensely rewarding — help to flesh out this fantasy epic. Rarely does an action-adventure game provide players with a quest that is exhilarating yet calming at the same time. Manaka Kataoka's enchanting score is soft and the wind often blows grass gently, making for an atmosphere of tranquillity. Regardless of how frantic the action can get, ultimately *Tears of the Kingdom* is a purely meditative experience.There is hardly a facet of this game that does not feel meticulously thought through. Simply put, it's a masterpiece.

Joshua Lamb

first night

theatre

How to Succeed…
Southwark Playhouse, SE1
★★★☆☆

Guys and Dolls is packing them in at the Bridge, so this is just the moment to rediscover the joys of Frank Loesser's lesser-known musical *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* about a swankier band of wheeler-dealers. If it doesn't measure up in terms of evergreens, the score is sharp and witty, and the satire of Madison Avenue values stands up surprisingly well, 60-odd years on.

Georgie Rankcom's slimmed-down production skimps on the Broadway gloss. There's just a five-piece band, although it's crisply directed by the keyboard player Natalie Pound, and the modest set, dominated by a neon ladder, looks like it was filched from a kindergarten. Loesser's music and lyrics still land a punch, though. *Happy to Keep His Dinner Warm* smuggles in some devastatingly knowing lines about women's place in the world.

Rankcom takes a very modern approach to casting. No-nonsense boss JB Biggley is played by the diminutive Tracie Bennett, while Gabrielle Friedman portrays the less than heroic central character, J Pierrepoint Finch, a former window cleaner who hurtles up the corporate ladder with the help of his trusty manual. It's an odd, empty suit of a role. Finch isn't all that likeable or even particularly assertive, and in this version Friedman often finds herself being upstaged by Elliot Gooch's venomous nepo baby, Bud Frump.

Allie Daniel gives a winning performance as Finch's love interest, Rosemary, and Taylor Bradshaw makes a convincing corporate yes man, Bert Bratt, while Annie Aitken smoulders as an old-school vamp. Alexzandra Sarmiento's choreography makes the most of the limited space, the actors surrounded by the audience on three sides.

The singing is strong and spirited on *Coffee Break* and *Company Way*, while Sophia Pardon has fun with the costumes on the wryly humorous *Paris Original*. The second half drags a little, but the cod-gospel of *Brotherhood of Man* sparkles towards the end. If you can't get tickets for *Guys and Dolls* — or even if you have nabbed one — this little venture is still worth seeking out.

Clive Davis

To June 17, southwarkplayhouse.co.uk

STEVEN BARBER



Terence Booth, Tanya-Loretta Dee, Caroline Langrishe and Antony Eden revisit a teenage memory

Ayckbourn's spiky 88th

The veteran playwright's latest delivers home truths, says Rachel Halliburton

theatre

Welcome to the Family
The Old Laundry Theatre, Bowness-on-Windermere
★★★★☆

In his 88th play, Alan Ayckbourn has lost none of his ability to depict an idyllic family scenario in which it transpires that sunlight-bathed happiness is spiked with delusion, discord and — on this occasion — vodka.

Here he deploys the concept of "The Capture", in which people can preserve precious memories as holograms that can be revisited; something that virtual reality developers are already exploring, although in Ayckbourn's world the fascination is human rather than technological.

The set-up feels a bit like *Total Recall* as if it had been reimagined by Laura Ashley. Josh Meizner's aristocratic parents are dead, but he wants Sara, his girlfriend, to meet them, so he persuades her to sign up for a "capture" experience in which they're beamed into a garden filled with snobbery and sunshine.

The futuristic framework quickly dissolves as Josh and Sara — both in their thirties, who must dress as teenage schoolchildren to recreate this memory — negotiate the prickly bonhomie of Sir Peter Meizner (Terence Booth) and Lady Vivica Meizner (Caroline Langrishe). Sara comes from a humbler background than Josh: her mother, we hear, worked as an office assistant in the town hall planning department, while her father was a dodgy policeman who strayed with a dog handler.

For all the Seventies sitcom-style absurdity of the set-up, Antony Eden as Josh and Tanya-Loretta Dee as Sara have a convincing and affecting chemistry that elevates the initial scene. This despite the fact that some of the exposition around Sara's disadvantaged background feels clunky and awkward. Ayckbourn is too skilled and sensitive a playwright to deal in stereotypes, though, and after initial wobbles the evening becomes sharper. Steadily he subverts the fragile-as-bone-china hierarchy with precarious twists.

In a moving interview about the play with his archivist, Simon Murgatroyd, Ayckbourn, who also directs, talks about how a "smile" in an old family photo is often "a lie…that is done for the camera and unaccustomed, of course". Throughout his career he has often investigated the dangers of the idealised past — here, we realise, it is Josh, who has visited this "capture" of his parents 43 times, who is truly disadvantaged.

Booth puts in a comically sinister turn as Josh's plane-flying paranoiac father, while Langrishe relishes the alcoholic cattiness masking her character's desperation. Bill Champion ably acquits himself as the dubious Uncle Lance, who has created the "capture" and — without one mention of how the technology could make this work on a physical level — revisits it for sexual reasons; yet another snake, it transpires, in this emotionally bankrupt Garden of Eden.

To May 27, oldlaundrytheatre.co.uk

pop

Bar Italia
Jericho Tavern, Oxford
★★★☆☆

A buzz has been building around the London indie-rock trio Bar Italia over the past year, partly due to their cloak of studied mystique. Nina Cristante, Jezmi Tarik Fehmi and Sam Fenton have managed to create maximum intrigue with minimal means, sharing almost no photos, interviews or biographical information.

Judging by this compact hour-long show, Bar Italia's no-frills approach also extends to live performance. Backed by a drummer and bass guitarist, the trio played a punchy but taciturn set, with no chat between songs, no encore and no concessions to vulgar entertainment. Various figureheads from Oxford's music scene were lurking in the audience, including one member of Radiohead.

Bar Italia are on a curtain-raiser tour for their excellent debut album, *Tracey Denim*. The home of Pavement, Yo La Tengo and Cat Power feels like a logical launchpad for the trio's artfully wonky brand of clattery, scuffed-up, post-grunge alt-rock. Most of their Oxford set would have slotted seamlessly into a Nineties Lollapalooza line-up, wedged between Slint and Sonic Youth.

Cristante stood centre stage for this show, but one of Bar Italia's signature moves is sharing microphone duties between the members. All three took turns on the recent single *Nurse!*, which began as a woozy, hypnotic incantation about stolen dreams and broken hearts before building into a more forceful multilayered roar.

Thwarted dreams and disturbed sleep emerged as lyrical motifs elsewhere too, appearing again in the sinewy, shape-shifting *Missus Morality* and the brooding, dishevelled torch song *Best in Show*. Fehmi's imploring voice had an especially raw edge, sounding uncannily like the Cure's Robert Smith at times, most notably on *Punkt*, with its gothic guitar jangles and roiling rhythmic churn.

This was a sporadically thrilling show, but low on colour or variety. Once the trio's hipster honeymoon period ends, these gently spellbinding songs deserve a little less moody minimalism and a little more sparkle.

Stephen Dalton

Touring to May 25, baritaliaa.com

dance

The Great Gatsby
Sadler's Wells
★★★☆☆

The biggest problem that choreographers face when adapting a novel for the dance stage is deciding how much of the source material to use. In bringing *The Great Gatsby* to the stage for Northern Ballet, David Nixon (and his co-director, Patricia Doyle) chose to tell too much of F Scott Fitzgerald's Jazz Age tale.

There is a lot going on in this handsome two-act production, here revived to mark its tenth anniversary, with seven main characters and 16 scenes. All credit, then, to the designer Jérôme Kaplan, whose lovely streamlined sets ensure that those scenes move seamlessly one into the other.

If you don't know Fitzgerald's novel you will want to read Northern Ballet's plot summary online. It focuses on the two intersecting love triangles at the novel's heart — Gatsby, Daisy and Tom in one; George, Myrtle and Tom in the other. Gatsby is rich, although the source of his money is dirty, and Daisy is the woman he loved and lost during the Great War. Now, as the summer unfolds in his swanky Long Island mansion, there's a chance to recapture their romance. In Nixon's neat choreographic twist we see Gatsby interact in flashback with the younger version of himself and Daisy in the full flowering of young love.



Dominique Larose and Joseph Taylor in The Great Gatsby

Nixon's choreography is as style-conscious as his Roaring Twenties costumes, which look even more gorgeous in the golden glow of Tim Mitchell's lighting. The dance flows; the pas de deux are decorous and elegantly shaped, and sometimes passionate; the party pieces pop like champagne. But Nixon doesn't spend enough time delineating and developing his characters. Gatsby, in particular, struggles to emerge as a fully fledged protagonist, although Joseph Taylor, leading the first-night cast, made the most of him.

The wonderfully dancey score (lively conducting from Jonathan Lo) is a patchwork of Richard Rodney Bennett compositions. The sound is lush, sensuous and alive with the hedonist spirit of the Twenties.

Dominique Larose sparkled as the flapper Daisy, the vivacious platinum blonde torn between her love for Gatsby and her loyalty to her errant husband, Tom, danced with visceral intensity by Gavin McCaig. Sean Bates was underused as Nick; Helen Bogatch was in high spirits as Tom's mistress; and a hot-blooded George Liang stood out as her cuckolded, murderous husband.

Debra Craine

To tomorrow, sadlerswells.com

Anatomy of a narcissist who feels no shame

Carol Midgley
TV review



Rolf Harris: Hiding in Plain Sight
ITVX
★★★★☆

Open House: The Great Sex Experiment
Channel 4
★★☆☆☆

In **Rolf Harris: Hiding in Plain Sight**, one of Harris's victims described him as a "social hypnotist", a great phrase for men with a talent for bewitching society into not seeing what's in front of them.

The most accomplished social hypnotist was Jimmy Savile, who not only got away with sexual abuse for decades but had the last laugh (and a hero's funeral) by dying before being prosecuted for his repulsive crimes.

Harris did stand trial, and served nearly three years in jail, but from the poem he wrote in prison about people just being after his "dough" it seems he sees himself as the victim.

Time after time, as the interviewees told of being assaulted by him, it was clear that he felt fully entitled to do it. A family friend called him "enormously selfish", all "me, me, me" behind that decent, chirpy Aussie façade. Although it didn't tell us much we didn't know, it was a well-presented anatomy of a narcissist unable to stop himself grabbing, literally, whatever he wanted, even his daughter's best friend from age 13, once molesting her when she was next to his sleeping child.

Notable was his lack of fear of being found out. When a 16-year-old girl shouted in the back of a taxi for him to "f*** off" and stop sexually assaulting her, you'd think he would be terrified of being exposed. But it was as if the protests didn't register, never dislodging the Harris halo of entitlement. Such as when he did it to a make-up artist in a crowded room and not one man stood up for her.

Even years later when just after recording an emotional interview the journalist Anita Jacoby called him out, saying, "That's not a hug, it's a grope," she said there was "no reaction, no remorse". When you are groping TV journalists you must be drunk with power or recklessly stupid.



Rolf Harris after he was convicted of 12 sexual offences in 2014

Lin Berwick, who is blind and disabled, described how he grabbed her breasts in 1977, cruelly yanking off her dark glasses, which were her "shield". She bravely waived her anonymity so that people could hear it in her voice. If Harris, now very ill, was watching that, would he feel any shame? On the evidence presented here, not a jot.

I missed the first series of **Open House: The Great Sex Experiment**, which was a great blessing. I could happily have got through life without seeing Kirsty having sex with her legs in the air, a grainy bedroom-cam trained on her jiggling open-toed high-heeled sandal. I ask you: if your husband said he felt insecure, would you say "I know! Let's have a threesome with another man"?

But this is what happened with Kirsty and Connor and, bizarrely, it seemed to work. At the second attempt, that is. The first time they attempted a threesome he got so upset seeing his wife kissing the other chap, his handsome face downcast like a sad puppy, that the third wheel was sent packing. She accused Connor of being selfish, so he resolved to try again. This time they succeeded, and we saw it played out like a homemade porn video from 1976. Afterwards he said he felt a "massive weight" had been lifted. Happy for you, mate. But I wasn't convinced.

Radio choice
Ben Dowell



Late Junction
Radio 3, 11pm

As well as being a decent comedian, James Acaster, *above*, is a man of refined musical tastes and the pioneer of a 40-strong international music collective called Temps. In lockdown his plan to make a mockumentary about a naive comedian turned musician morphed into launching a record called *Party Gator Purgatory* (there's a story in that title). His mixtape offers the presenter Verity Sharp tracks from the likes of the Brazilian vocalist Elza Soares, the American singer-songwriter and guitarist Marnie Stern and the experimental hip-hop trio Sooper Swag Project.

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Times Radio

Digital, web, smart speaker, app
5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Chloe Tilley and Calum Macdonald with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Ruth Davidson. The photographer Rankin discusses his life's work and latest exhibition **4.00** Cathy Newman with Times Radio Drive. Friday's headlines and discussions **7.00** Ed Vaizey. The Conservative peer and former MP sits in bringing his take on the day's news **10.00** Henry Bonsu **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2

FM: 88-90.2 MHz
6.30am The Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay. Suggs from Madness chooses his Tracks of My Years **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **3.30** Scott Mills' Wonder Years **4.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Michelle Visage **8.30** Michelle Visage's Handbag Hits. Feelgood party classics guaranteed to make Friday night seem fabulous **9.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spoony. A mix of soulful house and lyrical garage tunes **11.00** The Rock Show with Johnnie Walker. The host introduces a selection of rock tracks **12.00** Romesh Ranganathan: For the Love of Hip-Hop **1.00am** Robin Gibb at the BBC (r) **2.00** The Birth of Sparks: From Beach Boys to Blighty **3.00** Radio 2 Unwinds with Angela Griffin **4.00** Sophie Ellis-Bextor's Kitchen Disco

Radio 3

FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
6.30am Breakfast
Petroc Trelawny presents Radio 3's classical breakfast show, featuring listener requests
9.00 Essential Classics
Georgia Mann plays the best in classical music, Maud Hirst gives a live meditation over music composed by Eleanor Haward as part of Mental Health Awareness Week
12.00 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)
Donald Macleod is joined by Matthew Bourne and Monica Mason to discuss Tchaikovsky's final ballet, *The Nutcracker*. Tchaikovsky (*The Nutcracker*, Op 71 — Overture; *Iolanta* Op 69 — Act 1 Scene 5: *My only beloved Mathilde I claim*; *Souvenir de Florence*, Op 70 — Allegro vivace; *The Nutcracker*, Op 71 — Act 1 No 6: *Departure of the guests*; *The Nutcracker*, Op 71 — Act 1 No 9: *Waltz of the Snowflakes*; and *The Nutcracker*, Op 71 — Act 2 excerpt)
1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
Hannah French journeys to Madrid's instrumental music gatherings in the mid-18th century with Spanish baroque ensemble, Forma Antiqua. José De Nebra (*Obertura De Ifhigenia en Tracia* — Allegro; and *Obertura De Ifhigenia en Tracia*); Bernardo Alvarez Acero (*Fandango*); José Castel (Sinfonia No 3 — Allegro; and Sinfonia No 3 — Minuetto); Nicolas Conforto (*Sinfonia De La Nitteti — Andante Alla Francese*); Vicente Baset (*Sinfonia a Piu' Stromenti Bas-3*; and *Apertura a Piu Stromenti Bas-5*); Luigi Boccherini (*Tempo Di Minuetto*, Op.6); Juan Bautista Mele (*Sinfonia De Angelica E Medoro — Andante*); Nicolás Conforto (*Fandango*; and *Sinfonia De Siroe — Con Ira*; *Andante Alla Francese*; *Allegro*); and Fracisco Corselli (*Obertura De La Cautela en La Amistad*)
2.00 Afternoon Concert
Fiona Talkington concludes a week featuring the Ulster Orchestra performing at Ulster Hall, Belfast. Including: Monteverdi (*Rimanti in pace*, from *Terzo Libro de Madrigali*); Ferrabosco (Fantasia in C); Martinu (*The Frescoes of Piero della Francesca*); JS Bach (Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue, BWV 903); Ravel (*Trois poèmes de Mallarmé*); Mozart (Symphony no.36 in C, K.425 *"Linz"*); Simpson (*May*, from *The Monthes*); Gibbons (*Go from my window*); JC Bach (*Anime, che provate — Queste selve gia d'amore*, from *'Amor vincitore*, W. G19); Bloch (*Schelomo: Rhapsodie hébraïque*, B. 39); Ward (Fantasia VII in C minor); and Lupo (Fantasia in A minor)
4.30 The Listening Service (r)
5.00 In Tune
7.00 Classical Mixtape
Music to help soothe the soul
7.30 Radio 3 in Concert
The BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sakari Oramo with the music of Kaija Saariaho. Recorded at the Barbican, London on Sunday, May 7, 2023. Kaija Saariaho (*Du Cristal*; *Notes on Light*; *Saarikoski Songs* — UK Premiere; and *Circle Map*)
10.00 The Verb
Ian McMillan's cabaret of the word
10.45 The Essay: De Waal's Itinerant Pots
Edmund de Waal reflects on a phone call with the ceramicist Magdalene Odundo (r)
11.00 Late Junction
Verity Sharp shares a mixtape from stand-up comedian James Acaster. *See Radio Choice*
1.00am Composed with Devonté Hynes
2.00 Piano Flow with Gabriels
3.00 Through the Night

Radio 4

FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
5.58 Tweet of the Day (r)
6.00 Today
With Nick Robinson and Justin Webb
8.31 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 Desert Island Discs
With Simon Pegg (2/14) (r)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 Book of the Week: Into the Night — A Year with the Police
By Matt Lloyd-Rose (5/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour
Magazine presented by Anita Rani
11.00 Is Psychiatry Working? (r)
11.30 Ed Reardon's Week
Ed is enlisted to write the memoirs of Ping's granny, who has just made her maiden speech in the House of Lords (4/6) (r)
12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast
12.04 Archive on 4: Whatever Happened to JB Priestley?
Stuart Maconie rekindles interest into the often overlooked writer (r)
1.00 The World at One
1.45 Frontlines of Journalism
Jeremy Bowen examines how journalists should deal with repeated lies (10/10)
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Drama: An Eye for a Killing
By Colin MacDonald (4/5)
2.45 One to One
Ramita Navai talks to psychology professor Mary-Frances O'Connor about grief (4/5) (r)
3.00 Gardeners' Question Time
Experts answer listeners' queries
3.45 Short Works
The Suit by Colin Carberry (1)
4.00 Last Word
The lives of famous and less well-known people who have recently died
4.30 Feedback
5.00 PM
5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The News Quiz
With guests Kiri Pritchard-McLean, Freddy Gray and Geoff Norcott (4/7)
7.00 The Archers
Natasha has a fight on her hands
7.15 Screenshot
Exploring the history and legacy of London's infamous Scala Cinema (7/9)
8.00 Any Questions?
Political debate from Kirkhill Community Centre in Inverness
8.50 A Point of View
A reflection on a topical issue
9.00 Frontlines of Journalism
Stories from the frontlines of conflict — and journalism itself (2/2)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece
By Tom Hanks (5/10)
11.00 Americast
Justin Webb, Sarah Smith, Marianna Spring and Anthony "The Zurch" Zurcher explore the huge cultural and social stories that define political debate in the US
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00 News and Weather
12.30am Book of the Week: Into the Night — A Year with the Police (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra

Digital only
8.00am Steptoe and Son **8.30** Flying the Flag **9.00** Act Your Age **9.30** Bleak Expectations **10.00** The One Before The Last **11.00** Shadows in Bronze **11.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag **12.00** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine **12.15pm** Young Victoria **12.30** Bridget Christie's Utopia **1.00** Steptoe and Son **1.30** Flying the Flag **2.00** Act Your Age **2.30** Bleak Expectations **3.00** The One Before The Last **4.00** Shadows in Bronze **4.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag **5.00** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine **5.15** Young Victoria **5.30** Bridget Christie's Utopia **6.00** Steptoe and Son **6.30** Flying the Flag **7.00** Act Your Age. With Henry Parker, Miles Jupp and Duggie Brown **7.30** Bleak Expectations. Pip gets lured into a gunfight in America **8.00** Victoria Wood — From Soup to Nuts. Remembering the comedian's finest sketches **8.30** A Good Read. Sue Blackmore and Adam Hart-Davis discuss their favourite books **9.00** The Curious Cases of Rutherford & Fry. Discussing fungi **9.30** A Gathering Light. By Jennifer Donnelly. Last in the series **9.45** The Shadow Over Innsmouth. By Julian Simpson **10.00** Comedy Club: Mark Steel's in Town. The comedian visits Aberystwyth **10.30** DMs Are Open. Sketch show **11.00** Tim Key's Late Night Poetry Programme. Exploring the concept of dating through the medium of poetry **11.15** Knocker. Comedy by Neil Edmond **11.30** Les Kelly's Britain. A woman with an unusual claim to fame

Radio 5 Live

MW: 693, 909
5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Chiles on Friday **1.00pm** The Footballers' Football Podcast **1.30** Kammy & Ben's Proper Football Podcast **2.00** Elis James and John Robins **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport: The Friday Football Social. The weekend's football **10.00** Stephen Nolan **1.00am** Laura McGhie

talkSPORT

MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** Breakfast with Alan Brazil **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** GameDay Countdown **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time with Martin Kelner

TalkRadio

Digital only
5.00am James Max **6.30** Jeremy Kyle **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Plank of the Week **8.00** Friday Night with Nadine **9.00** What Just Happened? with Kevin O'Sullivan **9.30** The Royal Tea **10.00** The Best of the Talk **11.00** Andre Walker **1.00am** Martin Kelner

6 Music

Digital only
5.00am The Remix with Chris Hawkins **5.30** Chris Hawkins **7.30** Lauren Laverne **10.30** Nemone **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **7.00** The People's Party with Afrodeutsche **9.00** Tom Ravenscroft **11.00** The Ravers Hour **12.00** 6 Music's Indie Forever **1.00am** 6 Music's Emo Forever **2.00** Focus Beats **4.00** Ambient Focus

Virgin Radio

Digital only
6.30am Chris Evans **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Ben Jones **10.00** Rich Williams **1.00am** Olivia Jones

Classic FM

FM: 100-102 MHz
6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00** Sam Pittis

television & radio

Viewing Guide
James Jackson

Hidden Treasures of the National Trust
BBC2, 9pm

Top pick

This week's episode visits two rambling and stunning homes, each with its own fascinating literary history: Sissinghurst Castle in Kent, once owned by Vita Sackville-West and her husband, Harold Nicolson; and Bateman's in Sussex, the home of Rudyard Kipling from 1902 until his death in 1936. Sissinghurst is now famous for its garden, but the manor was in a dilapidated state when Sackville-West and Nicolson bought it in 1930. Now it needs a whole lot more attention. The writing room's ceiling recently collapsed, which at least turned up some curiosities, such as phone numbers scrawled on the newly exposed plaster. When cross-referenced against Sackville-West's address book, we see that Regency 2470 was her husband's number in London, while others belong to friends such as Edith Sitwell and Freya Stark. We also hear from the home's gardener and things go full *Repair Shop* with the restoration of Vita's large terracotta urn. Meanwhile, at Bateman's there are battles with woodworm and mildew, before a poignant note is struck during the cleaning of Kipling's maps of France — the writer's faint handmade marks tell a story of personal loss. The Kiplings' only son, John, went missing during the Battle of Loos in the First World War and his body was never found. The house manager believes the marks are a record of the couple's search in vain for their son, and for closure.

Have I Got News for You
BBC1, 9pm

Mel Giedroyc, perhaps with her trusty butter churn, is tonight's guest host, a gig she has been doing on and off for years — this is the fifth time she has presided over Ian Hislop and Paul Merton's insolence/ whimsy respectively. The guests are the *Newsnight* mainstay Kirsty Wark and the blind comedian Chris McCausland, who was last seen hugging a weeping Paul Gascoigne and telling Chris Eubank his nonsensical blather is like "a self-help audiobook you can't switch off" in *Scared of the Dark*, the recent, intellectually challenged reality show.

Early

BBC1
6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Rip Off Britain. An update on efforts to keep private parking companies in check **10.00** Frontline Fightback. Efforts to install on-board technology for safer rail travel **10.45** Defenders UK. Officers track down a loan shark targeting hard-up families **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) (AD) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. Eric Knowles presents the contest from Leominster in Herefordshire (AD) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Hope Street. A fishing trip goes horribly wrong when a boat's engine explodes (r) (AD) **2.30** Money for Nothing (r) **3.00** Escape to the Country. Sonali Shah helps a couple to find a new home in Dorset on a budget of £550,000 **3.45** The Bidding Room. Nigel Havers presents as the dealers bid to buy a brass and copper antique diving helmet, a growling Steiff bear, a Basil Brush ride-on toy, a pair of scales and an old mangle (r) **4.30** The Repair Shop. Silversmith Brenton West transforms a boxing trophy won by an accomplished sportsman and much-loved grandfather (r) (AD) **5.15** Pointless. Quiz presented by Alexander Armstrong with Sally Lindsay (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

BBC2
6.15am Homes Under the Hammer (r) **7.15** Money for Nothing (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Gardeners' World (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics UK **1.00** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads (r) **2.15** Eat Well for Less? Gregg Wallace and Chris Bavin help a household of students (r) (AD) **3.15** Secret Britain. The team is in Northern Ireland, exploring a witch's lair at the top of a mountain and an army-training base closed to the public for more than a century. Last in the series (r) (AD) **4.15** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr. The designers fly solo this week, giving them a chance to show off their individual abilities as they transform shepherd huts into boutique boltholes on a glampsite in north Wales (r) (AD) **5.15** Flog It! Experts touch down at Bletchley Park, the Ulster Transport Museum and Crowcombe Court to track down some unusual items to sell at auction (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. Nabil Abdulrashid, Luke Kempner, Sarah Millican and Philippa Perry take part (r) **6.30** Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip. Clive joins the 100 Miglia rally through Prosecco country and discovers why his favourite tipple might be even better when harvested by the light of the moon. Last in the series

ITV1
6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. Daily magazine, featuring a mix of chat, showbusiness news, lifestyle features, topical discussion, health and beauty advice and more. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Women. Interviews and topical debate from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. The dealers visit Blackburn, Lancashire, where Matt Taylor tries to score with a football jersey and Alys Dobbie tries to walk away with a pair of luxury vintage boots (r) (AD) **3.00** Tenable. A team of running club friends take it in turns to find the answers to top 10 lists, before trying to score a perfect 10 in the final round (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four more contestants pit their wits against one of the ruthless Chasers in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

Channel 4
6.05am Countdown. Annie Macmanus is in Dictionary Corner (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) (AD) **8.25** Frasier (r) (AD) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) (AD) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown **3.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. In Almería, husband and wife Steve and Sharon Garner help a duo find their perfect holiday home, which they eventually hope to retire to, for a budget of €180,000 (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Danni Menzies helps two Lincolnshire farmers who are looking for a holiday home, in and around the town of Coín in Spain's Málaga Province **5.00** Help! We Bought a Village. A couple from Norwich get married at their hamlet in the Limousin. Meanwhile, in the Dordogne region, two estate agents reveal plans to renovate a stunning chateau (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Bart becomes Nelson's best friend and revels in the protection his new status brings. However, he is forbidden to see Milhouse (r) (AD) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Ste opens up to James about his concerns that the marriage will change them, and the pair come up with a plan to prove their love for each other (r) (AD)

Channel 5
6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day with co-host Storm Huntley joining him for phone-ins and reading out viewers' correspondence **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues with Storm Huntley, who takes viewers calls on the biggest stories **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. The actor, writer and broadcaster examines the important stories of the day, getting viewers' opinions and views on them **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Tane and Felicity's wedding day arrives, and proves chaotic (r) (AD) **2.15 FILM: Never Let You Go (PG, TVM, 2021)** A radio DJ questions her ex's intentions when he re-enters her life just as a mysterious stalker begins targeting her at her radio show. Drama starring Jillian Murray **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Documentary following Brits who moved to Spain, this time focusing on the resort of Benidorm on the Costa Blanca. Narrated by John Thomson (r) **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. Hoping to vanquish the brainy behemoths on Friday are Foregone Conclusion (r) **6.30** Eggheads. The Biscuit Fan Club are the latest team to take on the Eggheads (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



The underground bankers funding people

Whilst the government's controversial illegal migration bill moves through parliament, an untraceable and ancient banking system is being used to finance people smuggling across Europe and the Channel. So how does it work? And should the authorities crack down on 'hawala'?

Evening

BBC1
7.00 The One Show Chat and features with Alex Jones and Roman Kemp

7.30 Question of Sport With Tammy Beaumont, Robbie Hunter-Paul, Maisie Summers-Newton and Fabrice Muamba

8.00 Would I Lie to You? With Shirley Ballas, Steven Bartlett, Josie Gibson and Chris McCausland (3/12) (r)

8.30 MasterChef The cooks are challenged to serve up a dish the judges can eat with their hands (AD)

9.00 Have I Got News for You Mel Giedroyc hosts with guests Chris McCausland and Kirsty Wark. *See Viewing Guide* (6/10)

9.30 Black Ops Dom comes up with a devious plan to get the cash needed to pay off the Brightmarsh Gang. *See Viewing Guide* (3/6) (AD)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News and Weather

10.40 The Chris & Rosie Ramsey Show Husband-and-wife duo Chris and Rosie are joined by father-and-son combo Michael and Jack Whitehall (2/6)

11.25 Bump New series. A new start for Oly and Santi is spectacularly derailed. *See Viewing Guide* (1/10)

11.55 Bump Santi reconsiders introducing Jacinda to his new girlfriend. *See Viewing Guide* (2/10)

BBC2
7.00 Villages by the Sea Archaeologist Ben Robinson explores the history of the Cornish village of Botallack (r)

7.30 Beechgrove Garden Kirsty Wilson and Lizzie Schofield present a follow-up on how the dahlia tubers planted in pots in April are coming on

8.00 Gardeners' World Monty Don plants tropical gingers and tomatoes and direct sowing beans, and Rekha Mistry's shares the secrets of her success for growing aubergines on her London allotment

9.00 Hidden Treasures of the National Trust Inside the homes and lives of the writers Rudyard Kipling and Vita Sackville-West, as the National Trust work to preserve the houses, gardens and the writers' possessions. *See Viewing Guide* (2/6) (AD)

10.00 Detectorists Andy and Lance become eco-warriors (5/6) (r) (AD)

10.30 Newsnight Presented by Faisal Islam

11.05 MOTDx Football discussion presented by Jermaine Jenas (r)

11.35 11 Minutes: America's Deadliest Mass Shooting The attack on the 2017 Route 91 Harvest music festival in Las Vegas (1/4) (r) (AD)

ITV1
7.30 Emmerdale Bob and Bernice find themselves at loggerheads (AD)

8.00 Coronation Street Gary quizzes Faye about her feelings for Jackson. Meanwhile, Steve and Tracy realise they will have to sell their businesses to fund the legal fees, and Paul is evasive about his return to work (AD)

9.00 I'm a Celebrity... South Africa Unseen Previously unaired clips from the show in which memorable campmates from past series of *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!* compete against one another in the South African jungle (AD)

10.00 ITV News at Ten

10.30 Regional News

10.45 The Proposal (12, 2009) A Canadian publishing editor working in New York faces deportation to her own country. Desperate to stay in America, she offers her assistant a promotion if he will marry her, but an immigration official becomes suspicious and the pair are forced to go to desperate lengths to look like a happy couple. Romantic comedy, starring Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds (AD)

Channel 4
7.00 Channel 4 News

7.30 Unreported World Minnie Stephenson reports from Tennessee on the bans on drag queen performances in front of children (AD)

8.00 The Big Interiors Battle The remaining designers address living room week, aware that judge Dara Huang is seeking the very best of design, ingenuity and functionality in each of their spaces (5/8) (AD)

9.00 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week with cameras capturing their instant reactions (AD)

10.00 The Lateish Show with Mo Gilligan The host is joined by Hollywood actor Will Poulter, DJ Joel Corry, broadcaster Vernon Kay, comic actor Tom Davis and actress and ex-*Strictly* champion Rose Ayling-Ellis

11.05 Sean Lock: Purple Van Man The late lamented comedian's stand-up show, recorded in front of a sell-out audience at London's Hammersmith Apollo in 2013 (r)

Channel 5
7.00 Michael Portillo's Pyrenees Adventure The broadcaster retraces the route through the Catalonian Pyrenees his father used to flee in 1939 as a political refugee from the Spanish Civil War (4/4) (r)

8.00 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out Susan steers her campervan around some of the beauty spots of Devon and the south coast of England, and gets the chance to dig into the footsteps of fossil hunter Mary Anning (2/12)

9.00 Are You Being Served? Secrets and Scandals Behind the scenes of the sitcom, revealing how the show's creators had to fight the BBC throughout its run to keep it on air and some of the personal tragedies that befell the cast (r)

10.00 Are You Being Served? (PG, 1977) Havoc descends on the coast of Spain as staff from Grace Brothers arrive for their annual holiday on the Costa Plonka, which does not exactly live up to the brochure's promise of rest and relaxation. Comedy based spin-off starring John Inman, Wendy Richard, Mollie Sugden, Frank Thornton, Trevor Bannister and Arthur English

Late

BBC1
12.30am FILM: Weird Science (15, 1985) Two teenagers use their computer to design the perfect woman, but are shocked when she comes to life. John Hughes' sci-fi comedy starring Kelly LeBrock, Anthony Michael Hall, Ilan Mitchell-Smith, Robert Downey Jr and Bill Paxton **2.05-6.00** BBC News

BBC2
12.20am 11 Minutes: America's Deadliest Mass Shooting Documentary (r) (AD) **1.05** Sign Zone: Private ADHD Clinics Exposed — Panorama. Documentary (r) (SL) **1.35** Our Changing Planet. Reports from Brazil, Cambodia and Kenya (r) (AD, SL) **2.35-3.35** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr (r) (AD, SL)

ITV1
12.40am Teleshopping 3.00 I'm a Celebrity... South Africa Unseen. Previously unaired clips from the show in which memorable campmates from past series of *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!* compete in the South African jungle (r) (AD, SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00** Ainsley's Caribbean Kitchen (r) (SL)

Channel 4
12.10am FILM: Trading Places (15, 1983) Comedy starring Dan Aykroyd and Eddie Murphy (AD) **2.05** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. A restaurant in Connecticut neglected by its husband-and-wife managers (r) (SL) **2.55** Come Dine with Me (r) (AD) **5.05** Jamie's Comfort Food (r) **5.15-6.10** Moneybags (r)

Channel 5
12.00 The 70s: Songs from the Movie (r) **12.50am** Entertainment News on 5 **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** The Yorkshire Vet (r) (SL) **3.55** Witches: A Century of Murder (r) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures (r) (SL) **5.45-6.00** Paw Patrol (r) (SL)

television & radio

Black Ops
BBC1, 9.30pm

This undercover cop comedy continues with an episode that's unafraid to have a bit of fun with racial stereotypes. That's OK because it's written by and stars *Famalam*'s Gbemisola Ikumelo as Dom, the bolshier half of the buddy-duo, with Hammed Animashaun as Kay, the naive, God-fearing one — both out of their depth infiltrating a gang in Hackney. Kay is about to have his faith in the church tested when he finds out what Pastor Tommy gets up to at parties. Perhaps Kay should have spotted that he's not so holy when Tommy preached "God loves products!" to his flock.

Concert by the Lake: Band du Lac
Sky Arts/Now, 10pm

Band du Lac was an all-star group put together for charitable causes and in 2005 their gig at the Wintershall Estate in Surrey was one of those where greying rock talent crowds the stage. Eric Clapton provides his soloing on several songs including *Lay Down Sally* and *Cocaine*, Ringo Starr turns up (with a little help from his friends), Queen's Roger Taylor does *I Want to Break Free*, Gary Brooker *A Whiter Shade of Pale*, and also in the mix are Katie Melua, Paul Carrack and Mike Rutherford. A finale of Genesis's *I Can't Dance* is given the full fireworks treatment.

Bump
BBC1, 11.25pm/11.55pm

Australian TV is having a moment: after *The Newsreader* and *Colin from Accounts*, here is the return of Claudia Karvan's family drama — a hit down under; a bit unsung here. It's about a suburban teenager, Oly, who has a baby, but by this third series (newcomers should watch from the start on iPlayer) things have moved on five years. Oly and her daughter's father, Santi, are still navigating life as separated parents, which is complicated by Jacinda starting school. The sweet realism of it is deftly written — big emotions done with a light touch. It fast becomes highly moreish.

Films Hereditary
Film4, 9pm

This unnerving horror opens with Annie (Toni Collette) mourning her mother, who was fond of "private rituals". Soon Annie's daughter is doing strange things with dead birds, and Annie is recreating her macabre family history with miniature sculptures. (15, 2018)

Sky Max

6.00am Stargate SG-1 (r) **8.00** Supergirl (r) **9.00** Quantum Leap (r) **10.00** The Flash (r) **11.00** NCIS: New Orleans (r) **1.00pm** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **2.00** MacGyver (r) **3.00** Quantum Leap (r) **4.00** Supergirl (r) (AD) **5.00** The Flash. A former protege of Dr Wells returns to town (r)
6.00 Stargate SG-1. Part two of two. The alternative team tries to undo past events (r)
7.00 Stargate SG-1. Part one of two. A new arrival plans to reunite the team (r)
8.00 A League of Their Own: European Road Trip. Jamie Redknapp and Andrew Flintoff take on a pasta-making challenge in Italy (r) (AD)
9.00 Bel-Air. Will organises a protest when Ashley's favourite teacher is fired (3/10)
10.00 Fast & Furious: Greatest Moments Refuelled. Fans' favourite moments from the action movie franchise (r)
11.00 Strike Back: Shadow Warfare (r)
12.00 The Force: North East (r) **2.00am** Road Wars (r) **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** MacGyver (r) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am Fish Town (r) **7.00** The Wire (r) **10.00** True Blood (r) **12.10pm** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **1.15** Ray Donovan (r) (AD) **3.25** The Wire (r) **5.45** True Blood. Bill gets personally involved in the necromancy crisis (r)
6.50 True Blood. Sookie searches for Jason (r)
7.55 Game of Thrones. Roose Bolton decides what to do with Jaime, while Jon, Ygritte and the wildlings face a daunting climb (r) (AD)
9.00 Souls. Past, present and future collide when a teenage boy claims to remember a past life as a pilot of a missing passenger plane. German drama staring Aaron Kissiov (1/8) (r)
10.00 Souls. A school project further throws Jacob's sense of self (2/8) (r)
11.00 Yellowjackets. The girls play with guns to determine who is the most responsible. Natalie untangles a lifetime of piecing together broken men and Taissa greets the rich (4/10) (r) (AD)
12.05am Yellowjackets (r) (AD) **1.10** Catherine the Great (r) (AD) **2.15** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **3.15** Der Pass (r) **4.15** Fish Town (r)

Sky Documentaries

6.00am Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD) **7.00** Discovering: Gene Wilder (r) **8.00** The Directors (r) **9.00** The Sixties (r) (AD) **10.00** Maralinga (r) **11.00** Escobar by Escobar (r) **12.00 FILM: Bobby (PG, 2016)** Documentary celebrating Bobby Moore (AD) **2.00pm FILM: I Am Jackie O (12, 2020)** Profile of Jackie Kennedy Onassis (AD) **3.50** My Icon: Natasha Jonas (r) (AD) **4.00** The Directors (r)
5.00 Discovering: Gene Wilder (r)
6.00 The Sixties (r) (AD)
7.00 Maralinga (r)
8.00 Escobar by Escobar (4/4) (r)
9.00 The Man Who Played with Fire (1/4) (r)
10.00 I Am Paul Walker. Documentary exploring the life and legacy of the actor Paul Walker (r)
11.50 Brazil 2002 (r)
1.40am FILM: Who Killed the KLF? (15, 2021) The rise and fall of the KLF in the 1980s and 1990s (AD) **3.30** Nixon by Nixon: In His Own Words (r) (AD) **5.00** Discovering: Gene Wilder. A profile of the actor (r)

Sky Arts

6.00am Joseph Calleja: Lead Me Home **7.20** Pavarotti: The Duets — The Best of Pavarotti and Friends **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Claudette Colbert (AD) **12.00** National Treasures: The Art of Collecting (AD) **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **2.00** The Art of the Garden **3.00** The Directors (AD) **4.00** Discovering: Rock Hudson (AD)
5.00 Tales of the Unexpected (AD)
6.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents
6.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents
7.00 Music Videos That Defined the 2000s
8.00 Guy Garvey: From the Vaults
9.00 The Yardbirds: Music Icons
9.30 Cream: Music Icons
10.00 Eric Clapton: Concert by the Lake — Band du Lac. A 2005 concert by the guitarist at Surrey's Wintershall Estate. *See Viewing Guide*
12.30am Bob Dylan: Trouble No More **1.50** The Rolling Stones: Charlie Is My Darling (AD) **3.10** Classic Albums **4.10** The Movies **5.00** Auction

Sky Main Event

6.00am Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** The Football Show
11.00 Live NRL: South Sydney Rabbitohs v Parramatta Eels (Kick-off **11.00**) **1.00pm** Live PGA Championship Golf. Coverage of day two of the second Major of the year
7.30 Live EFL: Barnsley v Bolton Wanderers (Kick-off **8.00**). Coverage of the League One play-off semi-final second-leg tie from Oakwell
10.30 Live PGA Championship Golf. Day two of the second Major of the year, at Oak Hill East Course in Rochester, New York. American golfers have triumphed at this tournament in each of the last seven years, and 12 months ago it was Justin Thomas who lifted the Wanamaker Trophy for the second time in his career
12.00 Live Ladies European Tour Golf. Coverage of day one of the Aramco Team Series event from Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida **1.00am** Sky Sports News **1.30** Live NBA: Boston Celtics v Miami Heat (Tip-off **1.30**) **4.00** Sky Sports News

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TalkTV

6.00am James Max. An initial insight into the day's top stories **6.30** Jeremy Kyle. The latest from Parliament, and exclusive interviews **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham. The host tears his way through the morning newspapers **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Hard-hitting monologues, debates and time for your calls
4.00 Vanessa Feltz. The stories of the day from the world of politics, current affairs and showbiz
7.00 Plank of the Week
8.00 Friday Night with Nadine. Former Cabinet Minister and author Nadine Dorries presents her take on the week with a mix of topical guests from the world of politics, culture and sport
9.00 The Royal Tea
9.30 What Just Happened? with Kevin O'Sullivan. Discussion
10.00 The Best of the Talk
11.00 Friday Night with Nadine. Nadine Dorries presents her take on the week with guests from the world of politics, culture and sport
12.00 Live James Whale. Reaction to the big stories of the day **1.00am** Plank of the Week **2.00** Vanessa Feltz **3.00** Friday Night with Nadine **4.00** The Best of the Talk **5.00** Cristo

BBC4

7.00pm Top of the Pops. Bruno Brookes presents the edition first broadcast on September 22, 1994, featuring Corona, Michelle Gayle, Suede, Naomi Campbell, Cyndi Lauper, Whigfield, Elton John and Bon Jovi
7.30 Top of the Pops. Claire Sturgess presents music by 2 Unlimited, the Cranberries, the Kinks, East 17 and Shane MacGowan
8.00 Top of the Pops. Music from May 19 1983, featuring D Train, New Edition, David Grant, Blancmange, the Beat and Wham!
8.30 Top of the Pops. Performances by Cameo, Whitney Houston, Starship and Wet Wet Wet
9.00 Queens of Song at the BBC. A selection of songs by female artists including Whitney Houston, Beyoncé, Mariah Carey, Grace Jones, Cher, Aretha Franklin and Tina Turner
10.00 Viva La Diva: The Queens of Pop
11.00 FILM: Grace Jones — Bloodlight and Bami (15, 2017) Documentary profile of the singer, following her in the recording studio, backstage and at home in Jamaica, interspersed with live concert performances
12.55am Queens of Song at the BBC. Songs by female artists **1.55-3.55** Top of the Pops

Talking Pictures

6.00am Ensign O'Toole **6.30 FILM: Thunder in the City (PG, 1937)** (b/w) **8.10 FILM: Flannelfoot (PG, 1953)** (b/w) **9.35 FILM: Sons of the Sea (U, 1939) 11.10 FILM: The Bold and the Brave (PG, 1956)** (b/w)
12.55pm FILM: Saloon Bar (PG, 1940) (b/w) **2.30** Crown Court **3.00 FILM: Oliver Twist (U, 1948)** Charles Dickens' drama (b/w)
5.25 Go Go with Matt Monro
6.00 Time to Remember
6.30 Away for the Day in 1952
6.55 FILM: An Inspector Calls (PG, 1954) Drama starring Alastair Sim (b/w)
8.30 Dial 999 (b/w)
9.00 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro
9.05 FILM: The Blood on Satan's Claw (18, 1971) Horror starring Patrick Wymark
11.00 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro
11.05 FILM: Carnival of Souls (15, 1962) Horror starring Candace Hilligoss (b/w)
12.40am Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **12.45 FILM: The Screaming Skull (18, 1958)** (b/w) **2.10** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **2.15 FILM: The Detective (15, 1968) 4.30** Tell Me Another **5.00** Target: The Corruptors

Film4

11.00am Tobruk (PG, 1967) Second World War adventure starring George Peppard and Rock Hudson (AD) **1.25pm The Quiet Man (U, 1952)** Romantic comedy drama with John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara **4.15 To Hell and Back (PG, 1955)** Second World War biopic starring Audie Murphy (AD)
6.35 Gods of Egypt (12, 2016) An Egyptian god seeks the aid of a thief in reclaiming his father's throne from his brother. Fantasy adventure with Nikolaj Coster-Waldau (AD)
9.00 Hereditary (15, 2018) After the death of her mother, artist Annie and her family uncover their terrifying legacy. Horror mystery starring Toni Collette, Milly Shapiro and Gabriel Byrne. *See Viewing Guide*
11.35 48 Hrs (15, 1982) A hard-bitten cop temporarily releases a criminal from prison to catch two fugitives. Comedy thriller starring Nick Nolte, Eddie Murphy and Annette O'Toole
1.30am-3.35 Escape from New York (15, 1981) A convict is forced to rescue the US president when his plane crashes in Manhattan, which is now an anarchic penal colony. Sci-fi adventure starring Kurt Russell

More4

8.55am Kirstie's House of Craft **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** A New Life in the Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** Come Dine with Me: The Professionals. Culinary competition
6.55 Escape to the Château: DIY. Dick helps a couple constructing a water feature (AD)
7.55 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows a London couple's project to transform an inefficient and uninspiring 1950s house into a sleek, modernist masterpiece (7/12) (AD)
9.00 Astrid: Murder in Paris. A woman is accused of murdering her godfather. Astrid and Raphaelle hunt for the truth, but Raphaelle winds up in the worst trouble of her career. In French. Last in the series (8/8)
10.15 24 Hours in A&E. A patient is airlifted to the hospital after being involved in a high-speed collision on the M25 and another is put into an induced coma after an accident while playing football (1/6) (AD)
11.20 24 Hours in A&E. A man arrives in resus with suspected internal bleeding (2/6) (AD)
12.25am 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **2.35-3.35** 24 Hours in A&E (AD)

ITV2

6.00am World's Funniest Videos **6.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (SL) **7.00** Dress to Impress (SL) **8.05** One Tree Hill **9.00** Dawson's Creek **10.00** Secret Crush **11.00** Dress to Impress **12.00** Celebrity Dinner Date (AD) **1.00pm** Family Fortunes **2.00** Chuck **3.05** One Tree Hill **4.00** Dawson's Creek
5.00 Celebrity Dinner Date (AD)
6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase (AD)
7.00 Superstore. Amy does not feel ready to start dating again so soon after her divorce (AD)
7.30 Superstore. Jonah tries to help Amy secure a hot new video game (AD)
8.00 Bob's Burgers. Louise and bob cook Thanksgiving dinner for a retirement home (AD)
8.30 Bob's Burgers. The Belchers are visited by a woman who used to live in their home (AD)
9.00 FILM: Fast & Furious 7 (12, 2015) Action thriller starring Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Jason Statham and Michelle Rodriguez (AD)
11.45 Family Guy (AD)
12.10am Family Guy (AD) **12.40** American Dad! (AD) **1.35** Bob's Burgers (AD) **2.30** Superstore (AD) **2.55** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

6.00am Classic Emmerdale **7.05** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.10** On the Buses **9.15** Wild at Heart (AD) **11.30** Heartbeat (AD) **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.45** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.50** Foyle's War (AD)
6.00 Heartbeat (AD)
7.00 Heartbeat. An arson attack on the home of a talented artist leads to suspicions that the man's patron was to blame, while Greengrass has limited success running a B&B (AD)
8.00 Doc Martin. Maggie gets the all-clear from the doctor and decides she will return to Bude, forcing PC Penhale to take desperate measures to persuade her to stay in Portwenn (6/8) (AD)
9.00 Doc Martin. Bert struggles to come up with the money to repay loan sharks Alastair and Norman Tonken, who gave him £1,000 to clear his debts (7/8) (AD)
10.00 Wire in the Blood. Feature-length thriller, in which Tony Hill visits America to appear as a witness in the case of an Iraq combat veteran accused of multiple murder (5/5)
12.05am Wild at Heart. Drama (AD) **2.20** Unwind with ITV **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

6.00am World of Sport **6.15** The Protectors (SL) **6.50** Minder (AD, SL) **8.00** The Professionals (AD) **9.00** The Return of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **10.10** Magnum, PI **11.15** The Champions **12.20pm** The Return of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **1.30** Live ITV Racing from York Dante Festival. Coverage of day three of the festival **4.30** Made in Britain (AD) **5.00** Minder. Arthur gets mixed up in narcotics (AD)
6.05 Giant Lobster Hunters. Team *Bold Contender* is off to a blistering start in the final leg of its winter run, but they hit a major crisis
7.00 BattleBots. Undefeated bots Bronco and Duck duke it out in the battlebox as the race to become *BattleBots* World Champion heats up
8.00 The 1% Club. Quiz hosted by Lee Mack (AD)
9.00 All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite. Hard-hitting action from the world of All Elite Wrestling
11.05 English Football League Highlights. Action from the play-offs
12.05am FILM: Conan the Barbarian (15, 1982) Fantasy adventure starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Max von Sydow (AD)
2.45 Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

Drama

6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** Birds of a Feather **7.55** May to December **8.35** Just Good Friends **9.15** Classic Holby City **10.35** Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** Tenko **3.00** Lovejoy **4.10** Peak Practice. Andrew takes up rally driving **5.25** May to December
6.00 Just Good Friends. Romantic comedy
6.40 Last of the Summer Wine
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine. Compo's son Tom settles into his father's old house
8.00 Father Brown. Lady Felicia and Mrs McCarthy are taken hostage (AD)
9.00 Smother. Val increases her efforts to find out the truth about Denis's death, while Ahern women draw together for comfort and converge once more for the funeral (6/6)
10.10 New Tricks. Brian believes his days with Ucos are numbered (3/10) (AD)
11.10 Silent Witness. The deaths of a local drug user and her child are disregarded by the police. Feature length episode of the forensic drama starring Amanda Burton (AD)
1.15am Happy Valley (AD) **2.40** Classic Holby City (SL) **4.00** Teleshopping

Yesterday

6.10am Ian Hislop's Trains That Changed the World **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **9.00** World War Weird **10.00** World War Two From Above **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain **11.30** The Fred Dibnah Story **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys **2.00pm** Bangers and Cash **4.00** World War Weird **5.00** Adolf Hitler's War. Adolf Hitler plans to make Germany into a great empire by expanding eastwards
6.00 Great British Railway Journeys
6.30 Great British Railway Journeys
7.00 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain (6/6)
7.30 The Fred Dibnah Story (1/6)
8.00 Classic Car Garage. Colin tries to help a 1978 Austin Allegro's owner with their wonky suspension (AD)
9.00 Great American Railroad Journeys. Michael Portillo examines the history of the US rail network, beginning on Manhattan Island
10.00 Bangers and Cash (10/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering (7/11) (AD)
12.00 Great British Railway Journeys **1.00am** Ian Hislop's Trains That Changed the World **2.00** Forbidden History (AD) **3.00** Teleshopping

Variations

BBC1 N Ireland
As BBC1 except: 3.00pm-3.30 Scam Interceptors (r) **7.30** Feed Yourself Fitter with Stephen Nolan. New series. Top chef Alex Greene offers the host tips on preparing low-cal delights **8.00-8.30** Question of Sport. With Tammy Beaumont, Robbie Hunter-Paul, Maisie Summers-Newton and Fabrice Muamba **10.45** The Chris & Rosie Ramsey Show. Father-and-son combo Michael and Jack Whitehall join the hosts **11.30** Bump. New series. A new start for Oly and Santi is spectacularly derailed. *See Viewing Guide* **12.00** Bump. *See Viewing Guide* **12.35am-2.05** FILM: Weird Science (1985)

BBC1 Scotland
As BBC1 except: 11.15am-12.15 Homes Under the Hammer **8.00pm-8.30** Landward (r)

BBC1 Wales
As BBC1 except: 7.30pm Wynne's Welsh 70s **8.00-8.30** Question of Sport **12.00-12.30am** Bump. *See Viewing Guide*

BBC2 N Ireland
As BBC2 except: 7.30pm Elections 2023. The results of the 2023 local election **10.00-10.30** Beechgrove Garden

ITV1 Wales
As ITV1 except: 7.00pm-7.30 Backstage

STV
As ITV1 except: 7.00pm-7.30 What's on Scotland **10.30-10.45** STV News **3.50am-5.05** Night Vision

UTV
As ITV1 except: 4.00pm-6.00 Vote 23. Coverage of Northern Ireland's local council election results **7.00-7.30** UTV Life

BBC Scotland
7.00pm The Seven **7.30** Live Sportscene Premiership Play-Off: Partick Thistle v Ayr United (Kick-off **7.45**). Held at Firhill **10.00** Still Game (r) (AD) **10.30** Limmy's Homemade Show (r) **11.00-12.00** Mark Walters in the Footsteps of Andrew Watson (r)

BBC Alba
6.00am Alba Today **5.00pm** Treubh an Tuathanais (Big Barn Farm) (r) **5.15** Pip & Posy (r) **5.25** Sionnach agus Maigheach (Fox & Hare) (r) **5.35** 'S E Iasg a Th'Annam (I'm a Fish) (r) **5.40** AH-AH/No-No (r) **5.45** Ainmhidhean CBeebies (r) **5.50** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** Aithne air Ainmhidhean (All About Animals) (r) **6.25** @12 (r) **6.30** A' Chuil (r) **6.35** Kung Fu Panda (r) **7.00** An Là (News) **7.25** Live Scottish Professional Football League. the second leg of the League 1 play-off final (Kick-off **7.35**) **9.30** Machair (r) **9.55** Fraochy Bay (r) **10.00** Rugby Union **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cyw: Blociau Rhif (r) **6.05** Halibalw (r) **6.15** Twt (r) **6.30** Y Brodyr Coala (r) **6.40** Jen a Jim a'r Cywiadur (r) **6.55** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **7.05** Oli Wyn (r) **7.20** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **7.30** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **7.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **8.00** Bing (r) **8.10** Cymylaubychain (r) **8.20** Stiw (r) **8.35** Teulu Ni (r) **8.45** Llan-ar-goll-en (r) **9.00** Timpo (r) **9.10** Cei Bach (r) **9.25** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **9.35** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **9.45** Ahoi! (r) **10.00** Blociau Rhif (r) **10.05** Halibalw (r) **10.15** Twt (r) **10.30** Y Brodyr Coala (r) **10.40** Jen a Jim a'r Cywiadur (r) **10.55** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **11.05** Oli Wyn (r) **11.20** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **11.30** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **11.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Bois y Rhondda (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Welsh Whisperer — Ni'n Teithio Nawr! (r) (AD) **1.30** Goreuon Gwesty Aduniad (r) (AD) **2.00** News; Weather **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Symud i Gymru (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Caru Canu a Stori (r) **4.10** Y Brodyr Coala (r) **4.20** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **4.30** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **4.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Ar Goll yn Oz (r) **5.20** Y Doniolis (r) **5.30** Bernard (r) **5.35** Cic (r) **5.45** Ffeil **6.00** Glannau Cymru o'r Awyr (r) **6.30** Garddio a Mwy (r) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News; Weather **8.00** Seiclo: Giro d'Italia **8.55** News; Weather **9.00** Canu gyda Fy Arwr (r) **10.00** Ffit Cymru. The leaders complete the FFIT Cymru 5K National Challenge (r) **11.00-11.35** Cymry ar Gynfas (r)

MindGames

Backgammon Chris Bray

Hard luck

A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of having lunch with Lewis Deyong. Lewis played on the backgammon circuit throughout the 1970s when the game was at its peak of popularity. He published an excellent book, *Playboy's Book of Backgammon*, but he is probably best known as the longstanding MC of the Monte Carlo world championships.

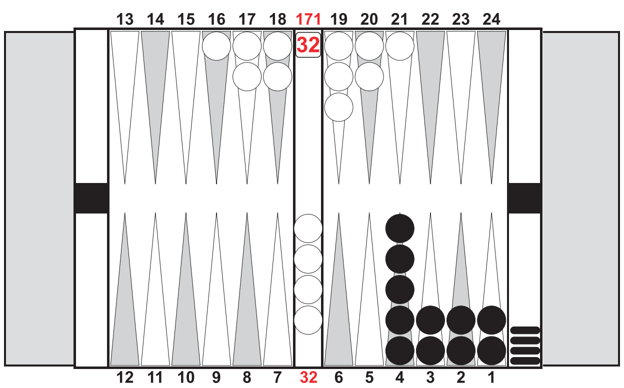
He is now 87 but he is in good health and his mind is as sharp as ever. He had no problem recalling the position where he had a match-winning shot in his 1973 world championship final against Carol Crawford. He missed the shot and Carol took the title, the first of four women to do so.

Our discussion came around to hard-luck stories, and this week's position is Lewis's entry in the "most unlucky game ever" category. Lewis was Black and he was pitted against a world-renowned financier. The stakes were a ridiculous $400 per point. As you can see, the cube is on 32.

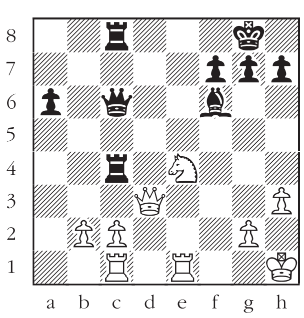
Lewis had rolled a series of big doubles to reach this position, so he had no choice as to how to arrange his home board checkers. Even so he will win a backgammon nearly a third of the time. Lewis now rolled double fours and was forced to play 4/off(4), leaving a blot on his 4-pt. Even if White hits the blot, Lewis will still be a big favourite to scamper round before White enters all his checkers.

That was before White rolled his own set of double fours and played bar/21(4)* (bar/4(4)* from Black's perspective). After a poor roll by Black, Lewis succumbed to the pressure of the high stakes and offered to call off the game. This was a more than generous offer as White still has a lot of work to do to close out the hit Black checker and, even then, he will win only half the time.

The financier paused a moment but then redoubled Lewis to 64. Financiers don't get rich without taking risks. Lewis had to take but easily lost the game. That was a probable swing of 160 points or $64,000. That is nearly half a million dollars in today's money. Lewis may have lost the game, but he surely takes home the prize for most unlucky game ever!



Winning Move



White to play.
This position is from Melikyan-Drygalov, Titled Tuesday, chess.com 2023.

Sometimes it is important to keep analysing an idea even if, at first, it doesn't appear to work. Here White has a fairly obvious knight thrust but a quick look suggests that Black has a satisfactory response. However, a deeper investigation reveals an ingenious win for White. Can you calculate the relevant line?

Codeword No 4905

7	1	7	1	16	19		14	18	12	19	6	24
19		18		22				9		2		19
3	1	9	11	1	26	15		16	26	19	23	5
4		16		19		13		12		26		4
19	10	1	20	15		11	12	26	2	13	10	
6				12		11				3		
6	12	3	12	10	12		19	6	20	12	3	15 T
		19				16		15				19 A
	6	15	18	3	3	1		26	12	9	13	17 X
25		9		1		9		19		1		19
12	10	13	11	24		16	19	15	8	15	18	16
26		5		20				18		15		22
1	18	15	21	18	5		13	9	20	1	6	12

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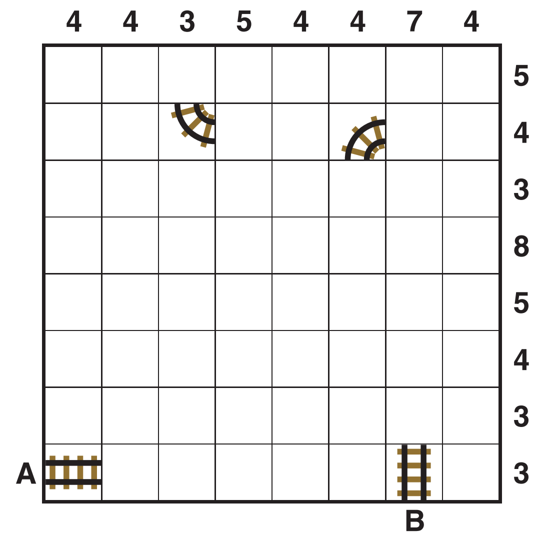
~~A~~ B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S ~~T~~ U V W ~~X~~ Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 T	16	17 X	18	19 A	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Yesterday's solution, right*

Cluelines **Stuck on Codeword?** To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

Train Tracks No 1941



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

Quintagram®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Register money in short supply? (4)

_ _ _ _

2 Our world needs change of heart (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 Aircraft ugly would you say? (5)

_ _ _ _ _

4 Find nightclub dead (9)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Two pubs, popular, welcoming a savage (9)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

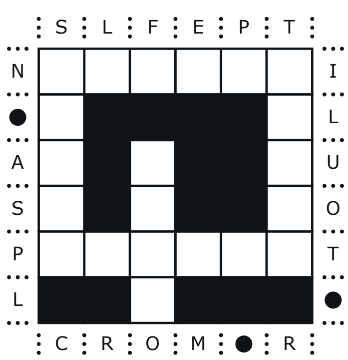
A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B
C	D	D	E	E	E	E	H
I	I	L	N	N	O	P	R
R	R	R	R	S	T	V	Y

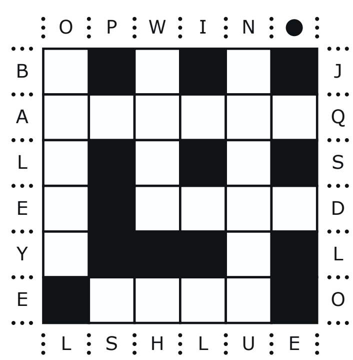
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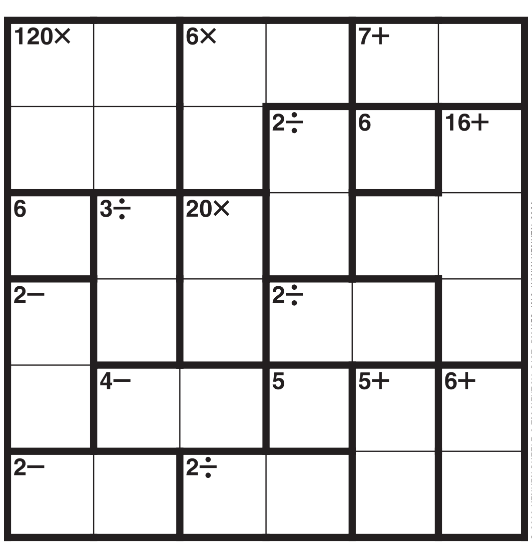




Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

What are your favourite puzzles in MindGames?
Email: puzzles@thetimes.co.uk

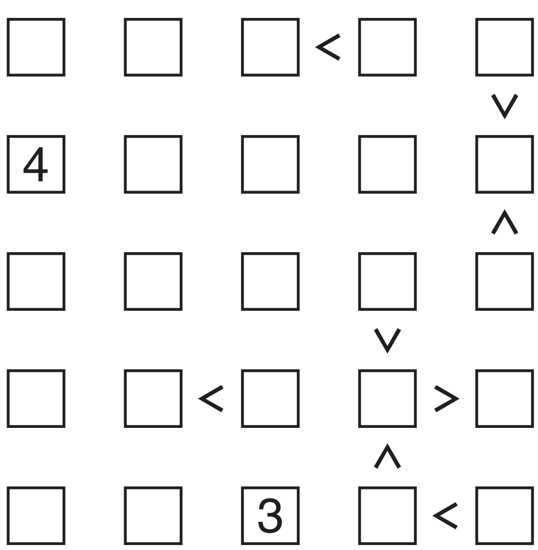
KenKen Difficult No 5897



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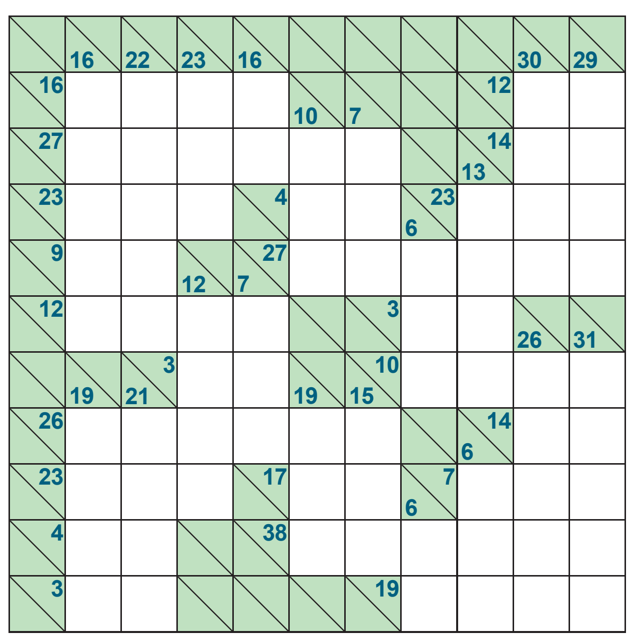
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 4480



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

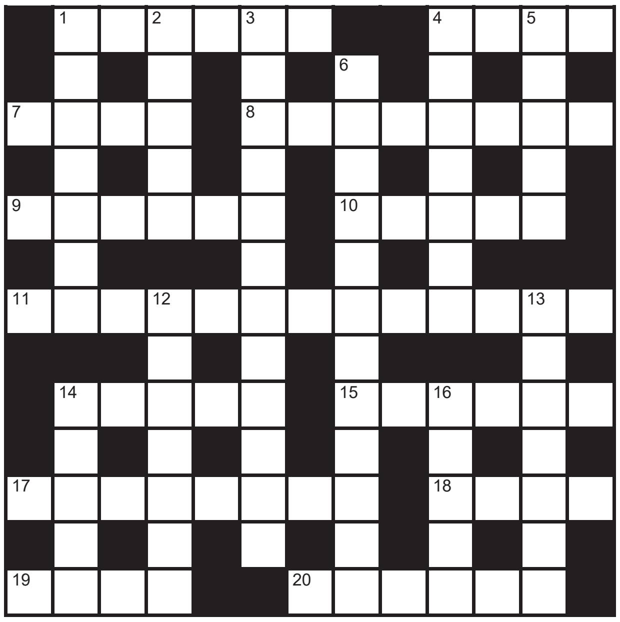
Kakuro No 3439



Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

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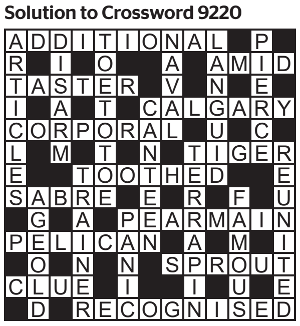
times2 Crossword No 9221



Across
1 Bankrupt oneself (2,4)
4 Sheltered bay (4)
7 Spoil, wreck (4)
8 Move from a country (8)
9 Tenant under a contract of fixed length (6)
10 Thrash one's arms or legs about wildly (5)
11 Part of a bird's wing (6,7)
14 Wallop (5)
15 Temporary break (6)
17 Twig, realise (6,2)
18 Cleveland's US state (4)
19 Rotate (4)
20 Breakwater (6)

Down
1 Of the muscles of the rump (7)
2 Announcement of an intention to marry (5)
3 Prejudicial assumption of character traits (12)
4 Dried seedless grape (7)
5 Essential (5)
6 Household spray (3,9)
12 Greedy eater (7)
13 Learned, well-read (7)
14 Large group of Scouts (5)
16 Excruciating pain (5)

Solution to Crossword 9220



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

Similar ... but different (87)

Beware of second-hand-plays-low autopilot mode ...

Deal One
Dealer S

North: ♠64 ♥753 ♦74 ♣AJ10532
West: ♠Q10732 ♥96 ♦Q986 ♣K8
East: ♠J95 ♥Q842 ♦K105 ♣Q97
South: ♠AK8 ♥AKJ10 ♦AJ32 ♣64

S	W	N	E
2NT	Pass	3NT(1)	End

(1) Hoping the clubs will run, although there is a case for jumping to the unfashionable 5♣ in case clubs can't be established in 3NT for the lack of a side entry.

West led ♠3 to the ♠J and ♠K. At trick two, declarer led ♣4 to ♣8, ♣J and ♣Q. Declarer won East's ♠9 with ♠A and led up ♣6. West's ♣K appeared, so declarer could win dummy's ♣A and run all the clubs. Game made plus one via five clubs, ♠AK, ♥AK and ♦A.

How many mistakes were made on that second trick?

The answer is two. East should let ♣J win. This will prevent declarer from being able to enjoy clubs. However, realising clubs are dead for the lack of a side dummy entry, declarer switches tack to hearts, leading ♥4 to ♥10. She crosses to (♣K and) ♣A, and leads ♥5 to ♥J. She cashes ♥AK, ♠A and ♦A and that's nine tricks made.

The really important defensive error at trick two was West failing to hop up with ♣K. Whether declarer ducks dummy's ♣A or beats ♣K with ♣A, she can make only one club trick. She cannot reach dummy twice to repeat the heart finesse, and is held to seven tricks — two down.

Deal Two
Dealer S

North: ♠64 ♥753 ♦74 ♣AJ10532
West: ♠Q10732 ♥96 ♦Q96 ♣K98
East: ♠J95 ♥Q1082 ♦K1085 ♣Q7
South: ♠AK8 ♥AKJ4 ♦AJ32 ♣64

S	W	N	E
2NT	Pass	3NT	End

West leads ♠3 to ♠J and ♠K, at trick two declarer leading ♣4. How can the defence play their clubs to ensure declarer cannot enjoy dummy's length winners?

West cannot hop up with ♣K this time, or declarer plays low from dummy. Declarer would lead to ♣A (felling ♣Q) next time. Note, declarer should do this, as West would play low from ♣KQx.

So the first three cards are ♣4, ♣8, ♣J. If East now wins ♣Q, next time declarer can lead ♣6 to (♣9 and) ♣10. Cashing ♣A then fells ♣K and there are three long cards to follow. Declarer romps home.

East must let ♣J hold. After ♣4, ♣8, ♣J, ♣7, dummy's clubs are dead. Declarer switches tack, leading ♥3 to ♥J and cashing ♥AK. However, hearts splitting 4-2, she is held to eight tricks — ♠AK, ♥AKJ, ♦A and two clubs. One down.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Brain Trainer

EASY 45	−9	x 4	÷ 12	+ 89	x 4	− 54	÷ 7	x 20	½ OF IT	ANSWER
MEDIUM 186	+ 2/3 OF IT	x 4	+ 759	TREBLE IT	− 4289	¾ OF IT	2/3 OF IT	÷ 14	x 5	ANSWER
HARDER 729	2/3 OF IT	x 11	+ 722	+ ¼ OF IT	− 3889	¾ OF IT	÷ 18	+ 686	÷ 14	ANSWER

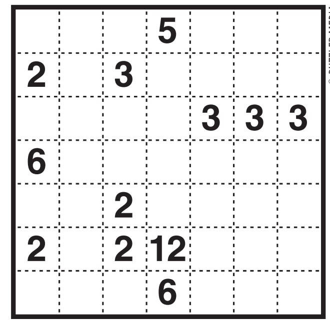
Polygon



From these letters, make words of **four** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
How you rate 13 words, average; 18, good; 23, very good; 28, excellent

Yesterday's answers
akee, amen, ease, enema, kame, kana, keema, makan, make, mana, mane, manse, masa, mask, mean, mesa, name, **namesake**, sake, same, sane, seam, seaman, skean, snake, sneak

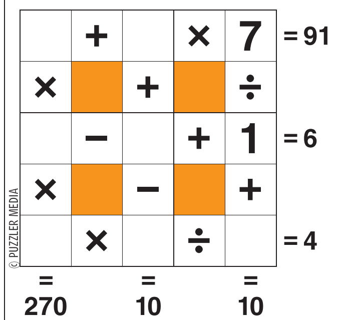
Cell Blocks No 4788



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

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Set Square No 3442

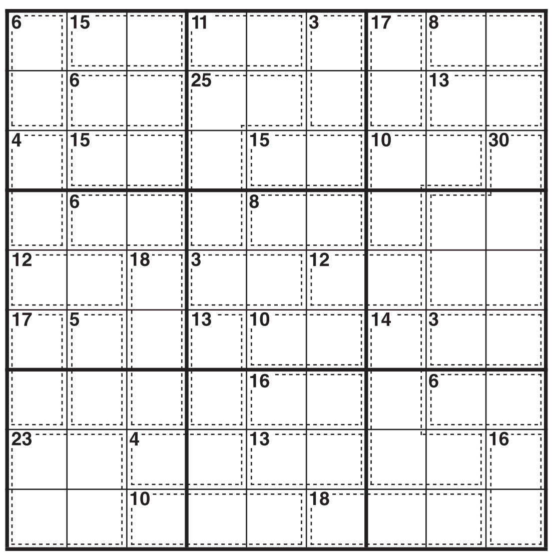


Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

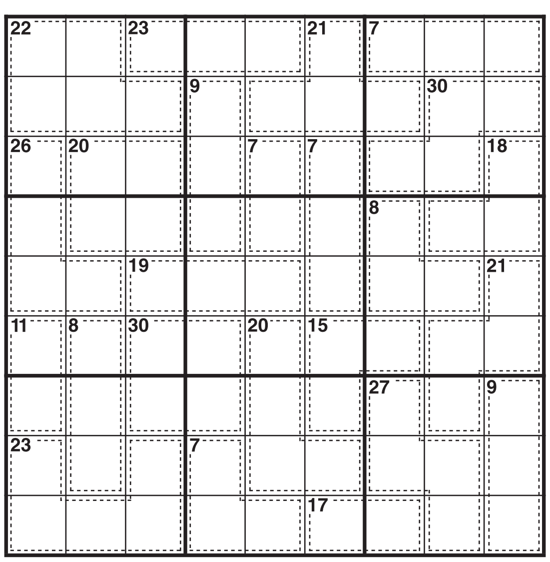
Please note, BODMAS does not apply

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Killer Moderate No 8883



Killer Deadly No 8884

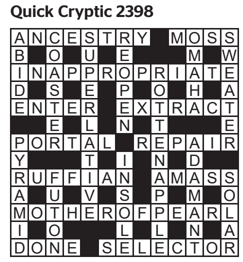


As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Solutions

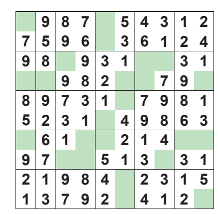
Quick Cryptic 2398



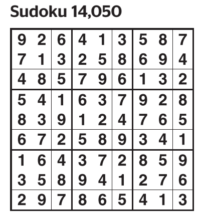
Codeword 4904



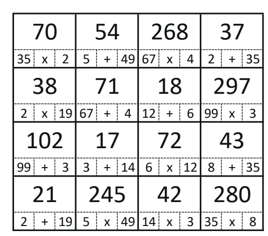
Kakuro 3438



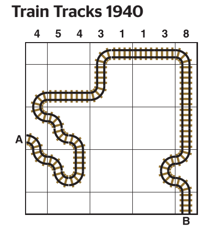
Sudoku 14,050



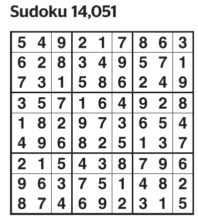
Tetonor 362



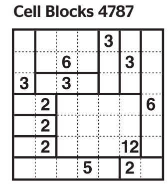
Train Tracks 1940



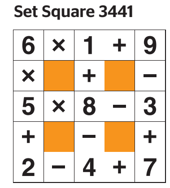
Sudoku 14,051



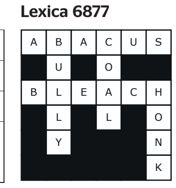
Cell Blocks 4787



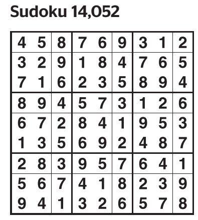
Set Square 3441



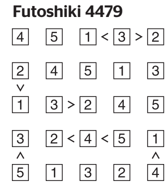
Lexica 6877



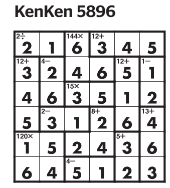
Sudoku 14,052



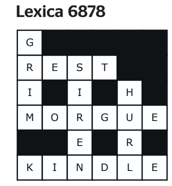
Futoshiki 4479



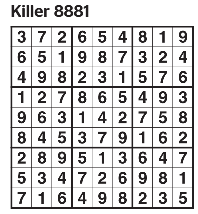
KenKen 5896



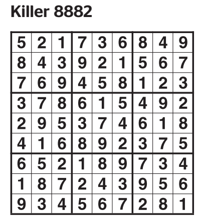
Lexica 6878



Killer 8881



Killer 8882

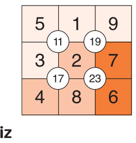


Today's solutions

Concise Quintagram
1 Art
2 Athens
3 *Brides*
4 Address
5 Leading man

Cryptic Quintagram
1 Read
2 Earth
3 Plane
4 Discovery
5 Barbarian

Suko 3806



Brain Trainer
Easy 500
Medium 305
Harder 60

Word watch

Bahookie (c) One's backside (*Collins*)
Tephra (a) Volcanic ash and debris (*Chambers*)
Premiation (a) The act of rewarding (*OED*)

Chess — Winning Move

1 Nd6! forks the rooks but, at first sight, 1 ... Rd4 looks like a good reply. However, 2 Nxc8! wins as 2 ... Qxc8 3 Qxa6 is hopeless and 2 ... Rxd3 3 cxd3 leaves Black without a good move, eg 3 ... Qa4 4 Nb6 and Rc8+ is coming

Quiz

1 *My Fair Lady* **2** Train or airport rail link **3** Omelette **4** *The Archers*. She retired in August 2022 and was the last original cast member **5** Brain **6** *The Full Monty* **7** *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* **8** Henry I **9** Chevening **10** Claire Goose **11** Revolt of the Comuneros **12** Breyten Breytenbach **13** HQ Trivia **14** Roger Federer **15** Frank Sidebottom

THE TIMES

MindGames

19.05.23

Word watch
David Parfitt

Bahookie
a A form of the sport hurling
b A rocket launcher
c One's backside

Tephra
a Volcanic ash and debris
b A government department
c Kidney stones

Premiation
a The act of rewarding
b Forethought
c The approach of a coming of age

Answers on page 19

Sudoku

Mild No 14,053

8		5				7		2
			3		7			
	7						5	
5								4
3	6		5		2		8	7
		4	2		5	9		
		6	7		4	2		
	8		1		3		4	

Difficult No 14,054

						4	2	
		2	6					7
4		9						5
8	6	4	9					
			7					
				6	1		8	
	4				5	3	6	
9		8			6			
7	3				4	1		

Fiendish No 14,055

			8		6			
	1						8	
		5	7		1	6		
		3	1		7	5		
6				9				8
		1				4		
	5	4				1	6	
	3	8	5		4	7	2	

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

1 Julie Andrews received a 1957 Tony Award nomination for playing Eliza Doolittle in which musical?

2 Which form of transport is the Luton Dart?

3 The Denver version of which egg dish is filled with ham, onions and green peppers?

4 June Spencer was aged 103 when she retired from playing Peggy Woolley in which Radio 4 soap?

5 Hydrocephalus is an abnormal build-up of fluid in which organ of the body?

6 In which 1997 film does the *Hot Stuff* scene take place in a queue at a Sheffield job centre?

7 The Green Chapel is the climactic meeting place for the title characters in which 14th-century chivalric romance?

8 Which king made his illegitimate son Robert Earl of Gloucester in 1122?

9 After his death in 1967, the 7th Earl Stanhope left which Kent country house to the nation?

10 Which *Casualty* actress played the lead role of Jane Kennedy in the TV drama *The Coroner* (2015-16)?

11 Executed after the Battle of Villalar, Juan de Padilla was a leader of which 1520-21 uprising in Spain?

12 Which South African poet wrote the prison memoir *The True Confessions of an Albino Terrorist* (1984)?

13 First released in 2017, which mobile trivia app was developed by Vine creators Rus Yusupov and Colin Kroll?

14 Geoff Dyer wrote the 2022 book *The Last Days of …* which Swiss tennis star, who retired in 2022?

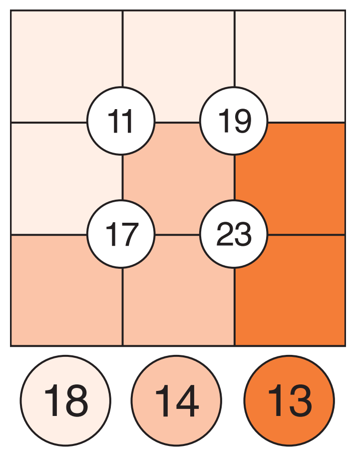
15 Created by Colin Spofforth and Paulina Skavova, the pictured statue in Timperley depicts which Chris Sievey character?



ALAMY

Answers on page 19

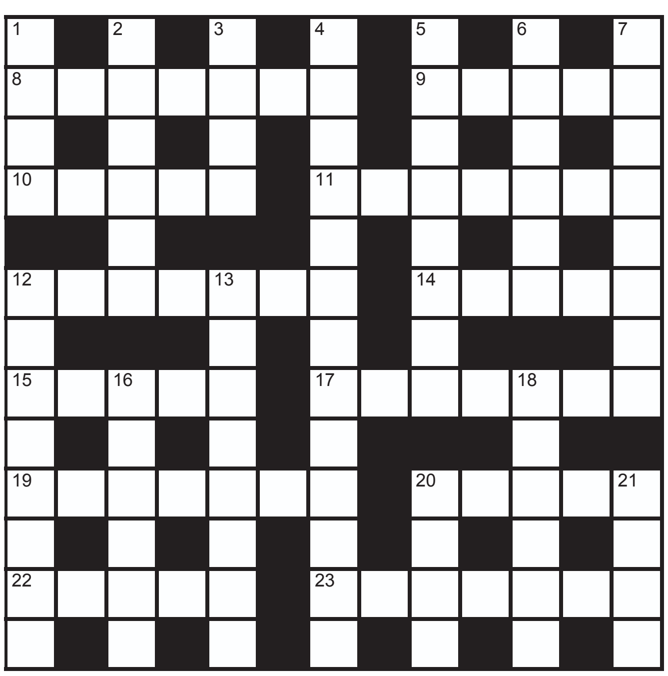
Suko
No 3806



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk

The Times Quick Cryptic
No 2399 by Izetti



Across
8 In which a Gallic artist is found (7)
9 Saw a little daughter taking long time (5)
10 Athenian tiny boy getting on (5)
11 Getting rid of a 19th century PM (7)
12 Old country fete to hold at one (7)
14 Grimace, catching cold in Bordeaux perhaps (5)
15 Working for international organisation backed by the German (5)
17 Get rid of faulty tyres, do! (7)
19 Target is hard — and optimistic (7)
20 Banker and bishop in row (5)
22 Message this writer sent back — trouble (5)
23 Cats wrecked site outside a B&B (7)

Down
1 Highlander maybe in this cottage (4) *
2 Mount beast of burden to cross river (6)
3 Chief having mother at home (4)
4 Colourless opponents across the board (5-3-5)
5 Vessels carrying a group of sailors and birds (4,4)
6 Abysmal ignorance, hiding what is evil (6)
7 Grey meal dished out sparingly (8)
12 Girl initially found out complained (8)
13 Rubbish served up before work, a pancake (8)
16 Sarah and boy turned up in US city (6)
18 Teacher taking time to talk effusively (6)
20 This man's a mug (4)
21 Explorer with gold standing up on ship (4)

Yesterday's solution on page 19

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We are rated EXCELLENT
£60K to invest?
Start building your property portfolio today.
Scan the code to find out how you can earn yields up to 12%
Call +44 (0) 333 123 0320
UK Buy to Lets - HMOs - Holiday Lets – STL